

# BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

Guide to Online Information Services and Electronic Bulletin Boards

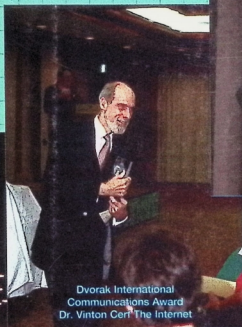
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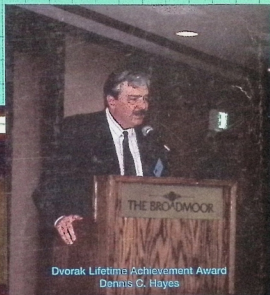
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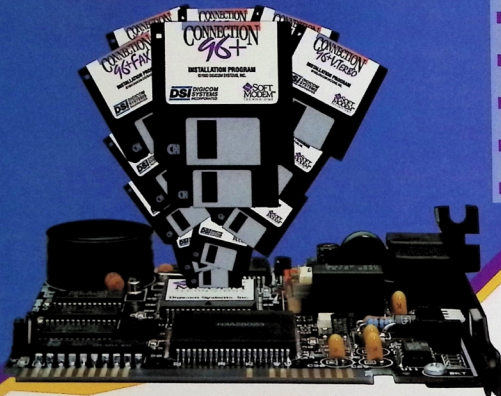
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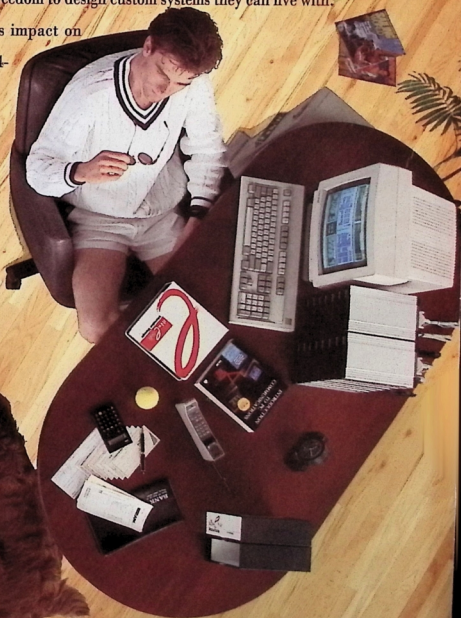
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## RENDER UNTO CAESAR WHAT IS CAESAR'S

Electronic bulletin board systems arose from basement shops and computer rooms in the homes of technicians across the land. Because they use an existing telephone system, they were virtually undetectable by society at large. And people who frequented bulletin boards were viewed much as you might a group of enthusiasts who met every Tuesday evening to exchange toothbrushes.

As the numbers swelled to a million, and then two, and now nearly fourteen million callers, the circle widens and inevitably, the visibility of the genre. To a government bureaucrat, this means just one thing - revenue enhancement - a new source of funds for the public trough. Every new industry goes through this transition from being a "new thing" to being a "new thing to tax." It would be an unlikely state of affairs for bulletin boards to be somehow different.

And the move to tax online services seems to be afoot. The state of New York announced in August via notice N-93-20 an Increase in Tax Rate Applicable to Entertainment and Information Services Provided by Means of Telephony and Telegraphy. This notice, effective September 1, 1993 affirms that the state's 4% sales tax does apply to entertainment services delivered by telephone, including electronic bulletin boards, and further, that an additional 5% sales tax is hereby added to the take effective 1 September. With local sales taxes of up to 4% also applicable, bulletin board operators in the state of New York appear to face a tax of up to 13% on their systems.

Massachusetts, on the other hand, appears to specifically exempt electronic bulletin boards and online database services from sales tax in their 1990 revision. But the Massachusetts Department of Revenue has decided to "experiment" with a new interpretation of the law to include online information services and electronic bulletin boards anyway. And they picked Brian Miller's Channel 1 BBS [(617)354-8873] as a test case, assessing sales taxes in

arrears going back to 1990, a sum that according to Miller's accountant may exceed \$150,000 including penalties and interest, twice over enough to shut down the system and destroy the business. The key element here is that Miller isn't being asked to collect sales tax on future business, he's simply having his business confiscated by the state, in arrears, to make a point that probably doesn't have any legal merit as legislated. The entire case is entirely in the minds of local career bureaucrats, despite the intention of the legislature to specifically exempt such services, and that intention



clearly spelled out in the tax code.

Miller and his partner, Tess Heder, created Channel 1, an 80-line BBS handling some 3000 calls daily, from nothing. It grew from a single line system, and they have lived with it night and day for over eight years to nurture it into one of the best bulletin boards in the country. They created something from scratch, proving once again that our nation's economy is not a zero-sum game. And those incapable of creating, but rather focused on leaching off a cut of the action created by anyone who can make a new thing, have decided with a dated stamp to simply confiscate it. This actually isn't taxation at all. It's theft. And we have a world more respect for those who steal in the night with a gun and mask, than

those who do it under the cloak of the state and in our name.

That said, ultimately the taxation of online services at some level is both fair and probably appropriate. It is certainly inevitable. Systems in the state of Illinois, for example, have been paying modest sales taxes for several years with little mishap. In Arkansas, every transaction of any kind is subject to a sales or use tax.

Ultimately, there is an enormous opportunity for a few states willing to forego a few pennies in the carpet to gain new industries. One of the advantages of bulletin boards and online services is that they can be operated from almost anywhere. There is little advantage to operating a system in Massachusetts or New York over Wyoming or Montana, or Colorado or New Mexico beyond the concentration of local population. In the future, as the local RBOC hammerlock on communications is broken, long distance costs will continue to decline and even the advantage of a local population should disappear. States like New York who decide to make the grab for the cash will find themselves counting feathers, while all the chickens will have moved on to more welcoming areas who will benefit from an industry that requires little in the way of parking, roads, sewers, and produces virtually no spoilage of air or water. The influx of money from other states will ultimately be taxed on purchases of equipment, office space, payroll taxes, and the obvious expenditures of the people operating and working at these services. The "data havens" will prosper, and the east-coast taxgluttons will continue their declines.

The juncture between Cyberville and the pavement continues to defy reason or the dictates of common sense. But it is a walk we have to walk.

Jack Rickard  
Editor Rotundus  
*Boardwatch Magazine*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address correspondence to *Letters to The Editor*, *Boardwatch Magazine*, 8500 West Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123, [letters@boardwatch.com](mailto:letters@boardwatch.com), letters at 1:104/555, or by fax to (303)973-3731.

### The Marlboro Man and Boardwatch

Mr. Rickard,

The more I read the mail sent in by your readers and your replies, the more they seem to look like the message bases that I read on MY favorite BBS, The Rock Garden, Phoenix, AZ, (602)220-0001. In fact, I find the pointless point/counterpoint rather amusing, however, sometimes it's TOO pointless and I remove that particular message base from my Quick Scan List. The thing I've noticed about most BBS arguments, is that no ever gets swayed from someone else's opinion. Not once have I seen the line, "I wasn't aware of that point of view. Now that you've described it in that sense, I agree with you fully." For some strange reason, that combination of characters never gets modulated or demodulated.

I find your replies to the letters you receive very amusing. In fact, we share some same views. However, in your reply to the Marlboro hater, September 1993, you had to resort to outright insults at the end of your spiel. I'm not saying that I don't support Marlboro, or that I do, or that I smoke, or that I don't. I'm not even saying that guy wasn't a whiner, or that printing the stories with Marlboro logos all over the pictures was wrong. I AM saying that the insult was in bad taste, even if he does need a life. Granted, some BBS's and some nationally network message bases are filled with insults, but \*the\* BBS that I call simply does not tolerate it. I consider The Rock Garden to be the best BBS in the country simply because the quality of the users is so high. You don't find misuse of multiple punctuation ("...", "!!!!!!", "12?!!"), ANSI sequences, bad grammar/spelling, poor shifting habits, and other highly annoying habits in every message. Nor do you find anyone outright insulting

someone else in a public forum.

Perhaps maybe it's just because I'm used to seeing good message writing skills, but I would never expect these things to turn up in an actual magazine, especially one of this quality. I don't like having to share views with someone who has these bad habits, but I guess I'm going to have to deal with it, because I don't expect you to say, "I wasn't aware of that point of view. Now that you've described it in that sense, I agree with you fully."

We just have to learn by experience.

Lou Young  
[youngl@mhs.t-bird.edu](mailto:youngl@mhs.t-bird.edu)  
Glendale, AZ

Lou:

*I wasn't aware of that point of view. Now that you've described it in that sense, I agree with you fully...er...well mostly.*

*I didn't originally see much point to a "Letters" section. Jim Dunmeyer made me do it. Why would we have "correspondence" in a monthly printed magazine about people and systems where messages fly like rain? As you will see from the next message, it actually has developed into "conversations" albeit in ridiculously slow motion with a month between each message/reply. What strikes me as even more of an oddity - it almost works.*

*I did not actually mean to be "insulting" in my closing response to the gentleman's missive. I was expressing exasperation at the ever ready blade of "activist" mentality that seems to assault every form of communication these days. The militant everybody does drive me to distraction, and the militant anti-smokers, like militants everywhere, would impose their will on everyone within reach, whether it matters or not. It has nothing to do with smoking, lung cancer, or anything else substantive, it is an attempt at imposed control, restricting the rights of individuals in pursuit of the perfect society, and if left unchecked, the outcome is always and very predictably the same - NOT*

*the perfect society, but actually a living hell for everyone living in it. Total safety, total state control - minimum personal liberties. The libertarian streak in me quite goes into a rage in the face of it. And this mentality knows no embarrassment in extremes. In this particular case, we were down to railing in indignation over one of our columnist's hat. It is toretch.*

*That said, I'll try to be more civil in the face of madness, and live up to the highest expectations extant on The Rock Garden BBS - ultimately the final word on correspondence etiquette without question.*

Jack Rickard

Dear Mr. Richards,

Your response to me justifying your decision to continue publishing the photos featuring the Marlboro logo does not surprise me. Living in an world filled with advertising on every street corner and bus terminal, a certain amount of desensitization goes on. I was merely suggesting that since cigarettes are one of the few products that harm people when used according to manufacturers instructions, maybe you would consider not running them in such an obvious way. The bright red and white logo is plainly visible and seems to be the only reason for running the photos. Surely we know what Jim Thompson looks like by now, having run his picture in the last three issues.

As far as discussion of current technology being a fair trade-off for this promotion of a cancer causing product, perhaps you are right. The typical smoker will suffer severely reduced lung capacity, making them a perfect candidate for calling bulletin board systems. It's not MY fault that they chose to poison themselves because of persuasive advertising being rammed down their throats.

Perhaps whole BBS systems sponsored by RJR Reynolds and Philip Morris are on the horizon.



Roy:

*I wasn't aware of that point of view. Now that you've described it in that sense, I agree with you fully...er...well mostly. I do apologize for the perceived "rudeness" of my reply last issue. But again, we differ strenuously in our perception of the world.*

*"Cigarettes are one of the few products that harm people when used according to manufacturer's instructions?" Let me posit a question. What are pistols for? Rifles? Nuclear detonators? Automobiles? Airplanes? Trains? The Titanic? Lawn mowers? I read of a tragic case of a child who choked on a grape.*

*My point is that we live in an imperfect and unsafe world. It is not just "not your fault" if we choose to poison ourselves, it isn't even any of your business. The world cannot be made safe. I'm not sure it can even be made non-lethal. In fact, I'm unaware of anyone who has escaped from this world alive - that I have any first hand knowledge of anyway.*

*What we can do is consciously attempt to give each other as much personal space, tolerance, and leeway as we can in an attempt to live together and accommodate the various vagaries, eccentricities, and foibles endemic to the human condition. That doesn't mean we have to approve of each other's lifestyles or actions. It just means that within certain survivable bounds, we'll just try to live and let live.*

*Do me a favor and let the poor guy wear his hat.*

Jack Rickard

## ONE BBSCON

Dear Jack,

I have heard of Boardwatch Magazine for a long time, but haven't had much opportunity to take a look at it until earlier this year. When I saw my first issue, I called within the week and got my subscription started. I also saw advertising for the ONE BBSCON. I made some phone calls and started getting prepared for a vacation to go to the convention.

I help run an Entertainment Network in Milwaukee, WI called Online Data Systems, 414-761-5120. It has about 35 lines and has been in business since March 1989. The SysOp (Skyhawk/Mike Weslowski), and myself the Co-SysOp (Pooh Bear/Tim Winslow) decided that the convention was something we'd enjoy just to see all the new things that may be popping up. What we didn't know was how much we'd learn on the trip.

The seminars were great. With two of us, we were able to attend 2 different seminars (of course some we saw together, especially when you were speaking), and with that, we got to see twice as much information as a single person. With all the things we saw, we have now found some new things to help us "BBS" better and make our users happier, and to continue to grow. You put together a VERY good show. With the help of Holly and Peg, Mike and I were put at ease with the nervousness of a trip like this. Your staff was superb.

I wanted to thank you for talking to me at the convention. I figured you were going to be busy, and you wouldn't have a lot of time for "chit-chat". I was proven wrong when you showed up in a few places, and talked to people. You have a great personality, and really understand the BBS world.

I had heard stories about the first one, but they were few and far between, and they were very sketchy, so we didn't know what to expect. We found a lot of "bargains", which alone paid us back in the amount we spent to go. Plus our wardrobes were really added to with all the free T-Shirts and hats given away. We are already planning on going next year. What we'd like to know is: Do you have a place yet? And if so, where? And when? We want to make some travel arrangements early, and maybe save by doing things extra early. Plus then we can plan our other vacations around this.

Again, keep up the good work on the magazine (I added two more years to my subscription at the convention), and let's make the 3rd ONE BBSCON a bigger success yet!

Timothy Winslow

Pooh Bear@ODS (MajorNet)  
poohbear@solaria.mil.wi.us  
(Internet)

Timothy:

*I'm very pleased you found ONE BBSCON valuable, and more importantly fun. The reaction across the board seems positive, so we'll try it again in 1994.*

*Our current preliminary plans would indicate a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17st-21th, 1994. Subsequent to the nearly 2000 operators at the Broadmoor this year, we are groping and grasping to develop a vision of what it will look like in Atlanta, how many people might attend, and what we can do to improve it substantially over 1993's ONE BBSCON. It gets bigger. It gets harder. It involves an ever increasing financial risk. And the expectations tend to rise each year. But this emerging industry seems to have voted pretty heavily in favor of Phil and I losing a little more sleep over how to do it. And so we will.*

*Again, very pleased you attended, and it was quite my privilege to have an opportunity to speak directly with you and others that are developing this online community.*

Jack Rickard

Hi there Jack

First of all I would like to say that your magazine is most probably the best I have seen on the online world, or cyberspace as it is getting known by now a days.

I am from South Africa, and the BBS community is alive and well here. We don't have any speciality BBS'es here, mostly general boards that have a bit of every thing. A lot of the boards are still running at 2400 baud, but they are slowly but surely moving to 14400, but not all of them will, as most boards are run by private individuals, who don't even charge access fees. BBSing in South Africa is not at all commercialised, they are mostly run just for the fun of it.

I will try and send you a complete list of BBS numbers, if you are interested. I wanted to send it with this letter, but I am quite new to

the Internet, I am still learning this editor, and how to attach files with the email.

Internet access in South Africa is very rare, it basically boils down to 'if you are not a student at a university or technichon, you don't get access, there are of course the exceptions to the rule. I have been trying to get full access onto the Internet for the past year and a half, and only got on about a week ago, thanks to some friends at the local technichon.

I would really appreciate it if you could reply to this letter by internet mail. I buy Boardwatch whenever it is available, but that is not every month, and when I do get a copy, it is usually about a month old. I would like to subscribe, but translating \$99 to Rands works out quite a bit, to much for my meagre salary at the moment.

Thanks for a great magazine.

Cheers  
Richelo Killian

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+27 21 949-0161  
P.O. Box 3524  
Tygerpark  
Cape Town  
South Africa  
7536

Richelo:

*Well, we do seem to be developing a correspondence with South Africa. I believe we published a letter from one of your countrymen regarding the state of bulletin boards last issue. I understand completely your angst over the price of Boardwatch overseas, the freight to get it there in any timely fashion is frightfully expensive. Similarly, Internet access for individuals is still an issue here in the United States as it is in many countries around the marble.*

*For those with a vision of what the future might hold, the restraints of technology, economics, and organizational inertia can be most infuriating. It is my belief that if enough of us spend the bulk of our adult lives working long days and longer nights, we will overcome them all. I could be wrong. I don't think so. Hang in there.*

Jack Rickard

Hi, Jack.

A colleague let me borrow some back issues of "Boardwatch". I had never heard of this pub before. I just finished the April, 1993 edition. GREAT magazine! I am going to phone the voice subscription line and subscribe.

I saw Brad Clements letter about being able to equip BBS's with incoming telnet/ftp. This is a wonderful idea. I would like to see all BBS's on the Internet so we can telnet to them instead of having to make long distance phone calls with a modem. After all, the Internet is the start of the information highway system for this purpose. How can the BBS sysops be lobbied to provide and let users know about their addresses (hytelnet??). Wouldn't the establishment of an Internet access be less expensive than a bank of 24, 36, 48, etc. asynch modems?

Thanks for your help and keep up the good work!

Mike  
Bloomington, IL  
MJTOMLIA@ILSTU.BITNET

Mike:

*I hardly think BBS operators need to be lobbied to publicize their systems. They tend to live for it. Sadly, the establishment of Internet access, on most fully functional levels, is NOT less expensive than a bank of asynch modems. Quite the contrary. More importantly, for the immediate future the means most of the public must use to access much of anything online revolves around the public switched telephone system. The initial task facing bulletin boards is to open the window on both sides of the house - with dialup modems on one window sill and Internet IP connectivity on the other. It is a task not yet well done, but we are seeing some significant tools being developed even now.*

*It is indeed exciting.*

Jack Rickard  
Dear Jack,

Well I have been meaning to write to you for awhile, but it took me some time to find a BBS in Calgary

that I had access to with INTERNet. I read your magazine every month, and really enjoy it.

I have been making Calgary's only BBS list for the last 9 months now, and it has appeared in the Computer Paper, and on almost all the local BBS's. Although there are only 190 BBS's in Calgary, it is still a lot of work, and I can appreciate the work that must go into your magazine.

I was wondering if you could do a 'Spotlight' on Calgary or another Canadian city, as there are no real Canadian BBS publications that I am aware of. Your magazine is read all over, and there are many modems that are unaware of the vast scope of BBS's that Canada can offer. Sure they are smaller, and few in number compared to their American counter part, but they are growing fast.

I have run boards on-and-off, and know what a little advertising can do for your user list, and that is why I started the BBS list, that and the fact that when I moved here, the newest list was over a year old. Hows that for accuracy? The list that I publish, is more of a on-line magazine with a BBS focus. There are stories, and local interest articles... There are also pretyped, updated monthly Dialing directories for Telemate 4.12, Telix 3.21, Procomm 2.0+, Boyan Communications 5.0, RoboTerm 2.7, Qmodem 4.5/5.0, and a definable text list. In short it is a must for any Calgary BBS user.

If you could reply I would love that. As for the list, I can send you a copy if you like, to see what the Calgary modem community is all about.

Talk soon.

Jose del Rio  
Calgary, Alberta  
jdr@nucleus.cuc.ab.ca  
Nucleus BBS (403) 531-9353 - 20 Lines



Dear Jose:

We can and would be inclined to. That's what we do. It's very nearly all we do. I don't know what the calendar looks like, but we would certainly be interested in scheduling Calgary Alberta for our featured list. In any event, we'll be pleased to add your system to our list of list keepers.

And you may have a slightly different view of Canadian BBSing than I do. Canada has always been good to Boardwatch. I assume that a very literate population coupled with some perhaps longish coolish nights seem to make it an active and an intriguing area for online activity. I would that I could get Texans to read as well (that should draw a bit o' mail).

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

The article "Access to Government" by Jim Warren (Sep 1993) prompted me to write about trying to use the FDA BBS.

The Food and Drug Admin (FDA) runs a BBS (800/222-0185 9600 7E1) which has info about the FDA and its various public documents. I wanted to comment on the FDA's recent regulatory proposals on vitamin supplements, published in the June 18 Federal Register, so I needed a copy of their proposals. I logged in on August 29 and, after trying a number of different access paths, found that they only had the last few weeks of their Federal Regs—the oldest one on the system was August 3.

To make sure that it wasn't just my error, I called their Press Office and a pleasant and helpful person confirmed that they would only include the last two weeks of Federal Regs; she just hadn't deleted the older ones yet. When I explained what I wanted, she directed me to the Freedom of Information office, who said that I had to file a formal request (by US mail) and that they would reply (not necessarily positively) in ten working days.

I decided to try to buy a copy through the Government Printing Office. The Chicago GPO directed me to the Washington DC GPO who said that the 266 page Special

Edition of the June 18 *Federal Register*, which included the info I wanted, was out of print as of August 23, with no current plan to re-publish!

My only hope now is the Chicago Public Library or another depository library in Chicago which will only have a non-circulating, reference paper copy (at best), instead of a computer-readable and editable copy. I'm back in the stone age.

If those pushing the California bill AB1624 are worried about "unelected bureaucrats" giving people adequate access to government docs, they had better get some implementation details, such as the lifetime of online copies, into the bill itself.

Dale Dellutri  
ddellutri@aol.com

Dale:

The issues revolving around government and online services may appear to be a bit narrow. I personally think they are going to be both important and divisive and it will apparently require quite a battle to secure our own usable contemporary access to information we have funded and have every right to access. Actually, I would take that a step further and posit that government in a democratic republic has an obligation to provide it to us - wrapped in a little paper package with a pink bow on our front porch if necessary. But it would appear to be a battle, and I was quite pleased Jim Warren not only took up the lance, but offered to write on the subject regularly in Boardwatch.

I personally find the root of the problem goes to a surreal little society of government bureaucrats whose view of the world is so foreign to me I am constantly left gasping in amazement that they exist at all. Most recently, I learned that the State of Massachusetts Department of Revenue, in a most predatory fashion, had informed Channel 1 sysop Brian Miller that they were bureaucratically rewriting the tax laws without benefit of legislature to impose a sales tax, retroactively, and in arrears, on his BBS. I know this sounds bad, but it isn't really what caught my eye.

What did was the comment from Brian Miller that in the few months since the

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*DOR had dropped this little bomb, effectively freezing Channel 1 and probably preventing a single good nights sleep on the premises by anyone involved with the BBS, final resolution of the whole case was delayed by the DOR agent who has taken TWO vacations of THREE WEEKS EACH in the space of a few months. This while dealing with a gentleman who hasn't had a DAY off in over five years.*

*We are basically working toward our own American class system - those who do, and those who live off of those who do. The fear of course is that the latter group will eventually outnumber the former - and as a nation we won't be able to pay our bills...hmmmm...*

Jack Rickard

Jack:

I just read the letter in the September Boardwatch about vending machines on the Internet, and thought I'd pass along what I know so you can share it with your readers. The original, semi-legendary Internet Coke Machine was first hooked up at Carnegie Mellon University, over 5 years ago. When it was reconnected earlier this year after a long absence, they noticed that 3/4 of the accesses to it were from outside the university. News travels quickly on the net - apparently someone had posted the information to the alt.folklore.computers newsgroup. Carnegie Mellon has since hooked up an M&M machine to the net as well.

Not to be outdone, naturally other hackers had to try to surpass the original... There's one at the University of Wisconsin that allows students to leave money to set up an online account, after which they can cause the machine to dispense cans of soda by typing the appropriate commands on any terminal. The thought of mailing in a dollar just to be able to anonymously buy a coke from halfway across the country for the first student that wanders by has a certain, strange appeal, I must say.

But the fanciest implementation I'm aware of is at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where the

info file says they spent a night living up to their motto, "We do more after 2am than most people do all day" to program their version. Anyone with Internet access and sufficient curiosity can have a look by typing "finger drink@csh.rit.edu", "finger graph@csh.rit.edu", or "finger info@csh.rit.edu". They also have an X Windows client called "xdrink" available now to support a graphic interface. I can't tell you what that looks like, but I can tell you that as I write this, they have plenty of Jolt and Mountain Dew, but only 4 cans of Coke Classic left. Furthermore, all of these have been in the machine long enough to be "100% cold", and they are completely out of Iced Tea.

I'll just mention in closing that I managed to find the Internet address of a microwave oven in the United Kingdom, but I was unable to figure out how to make it do anything. Perhaps some other reader who knows more can enlighten us?

Dr. Cat

cat@wixer.bga.com

P.S. I had a great time at BBSCON this year. Keep up the good work!

Dear Dr.

*I am enthralled by this bit of urban net-legend as I'm sure our reader's will be. But the question remaining - what is the IP address of the M&M machine?*

Jack Rickard

Hi Jack.

I just picked up your magazine for the first time, my interest being piqued by some (to me) interesting new developments in the bbs world which I have been unaware of. I used to have an Amiga (wait! don't hang up! ^.^) and I frequented a number of bulletin boards with it. In recent years, however, I have been living exclusively in the UNIX/Internet world, with only a dumb terminal at home. Given that most (all?) bbs'es I have seen don't know what to do with a WYSE-50 terminal, I have mainly given up the practice. Innovations like RIPScrip intrigue me greatly.

Your editorial struck me as rather

interesting, but I'm not sure that I agree with all of your conclusions. Based on my admittedly short acquaintance with your magazine, I believe that this is probably par for the course. Nevertheless, I will bite and explain some of my disagreements. I also want to ramble a bit on the services and prospects on Internet, so I hope you'll stay with me.

Re: UNIX. I'm somewhat mystified that you attack UNIX as not being an operating system. Huh? I am in full agreement with you that it is not a simple system, but I can't see that it is very much more difficult to use than naked DOS. I walk through the book stores and see hundreds of books teaching people how to navigate the DOS world. I myself have difficulty in going back and working with DOS.. DOS under COMMAND.COM is similar to the UNIX shell interface (including the dependence on opaque parameters such as /f and so forth), but with seemingly random restrictions that make the system somewhat less predictable to me.

Granted that many more people \*are\* familiar with DOS, but I think it is fallacious to argue that simple command-line tasks are very much more difficult to perform on UNIX systems. I don't know that they are done in a way that is particularly different from DOS. Systems administration is another matter entirely, and one I don't like to think about during dinner, but hopefully the users we are talking about connecting to the Internet wouldn't have to use any system on such a level.

I don't think that UNIX is a test, nor do I think that all people should learn it. As you stated, people don't need UNIX to connect to the Internet. At the research lab where I work, we have on the order of 600 Macintoshes connected to Internet through an Ethernet-based local area network. Our people can access Gopher, USENET, WAIS, E-mail, Telnet, FTP, and more without ever having to know a whit of UNIX. My personal feeling is that IP-connected UNIX is one of the best mediums for experimenting with new ideas in networking, but I see no reason why Joe user need deal with the complexity.

I do, on the other hand, see many



reasons why Joe user should have, if at all possible, direct access to Internet instead of going through a BBS intermediary. Many of the most exciting areas of development on the Internet depend on a higher level of interaction than can be supported through a batched interface like mail or news. In particular, a relatively new development, which I am working on, and that I find very exciting, is global distributed hypermedia using the World Wide Web system. Using NCSA Mosaic (now on UNIX, soon for both the Macintosh and Microsoft Windows), I can jump from document to document and continent to continent, all in the context of a unified system which can encompass Gopher, WAIS, FTP, USENET, and the World Wide Web system itself. You spoke of gopher rather disparagingly, as if the folks in the UNIX world were so retarded that menus strike us as a new innovation. Not at all. Gopher has a menu structure that is distributed across thousands of hosts, with over a million non-duplicated menu items. And there exist databases that can search this gigantic structure almost instantly, creating a custom menu based on your criteria. That is why we find Gopher interesting.

While Gopher is interesting primarily because of its scope and because of the ease of adding information to it, the World Wide Web (WWW) shares all those attributes plus a quite nice facility for structured documents with imbedded images, sounds, animations, global hyperlinks, shareable annotations, and much more. The World Wide Web, with all that it subsumes, is the single most important innovation on the Internet today, and could eventually rival E-mail in importance and usage.

Your argument for the necessity of BBSes as intermediaries to the Internet strikes me as a little off. With developing technology, I'm not sure that it will really be strictly necessary to have a dial-up BBS act as an intermediary to the Internet as you stated. Rather, I hope to see BBSes sucked into the Internet.

There is an organization in California that demonstrated (will be demonstrating?) a system at InterOp that will allow home users to access the World Wide Web using

NCSA Mosaic through their cable TV connection. The cable TV wire will act as a 4MB/s download link, and they will use a 9600 baud modem as an upload link. This still doesn't allow the users to do a lot of information publication themselves, but it does permit rapid, convenient direct access to the truly stunning wealth of data available on Internet.

I think that BBSes do have a role to play, by serving as unique windows through which people can see the world. BBSes would act as local meeting places and as filters, as comfortable communities in the information world. This is what they have always done, and this is what they should (will!) continue to do. There are a number of BBSes on the Internet itself, that people connect to via telnet rather than a modem. Internet also supports the MUDs, which are consensual text-based virtual realities that can have dozens of people involved at a time. These are BBSes of a different order, but I think that they are not too dissimilar to be of interest.

I think that the Internet-ification of BBSes is an extremely important trend, and I think it will one day make extremely good economic sense for a BBS to have relatively high-speed connections to Internet rather than having a bank of telephone lines. I'd like to see every other home running a BBS of some kind, or publishing recipes in Gopher, or providing quilting patterns in the World Wide Web.

I think that we all have to work diligently to make sure that the heralded information infrastructure is not merely a way for advertisers to do their work more efficiently. I dread seeing the 40 channels of home shopping network being the epitome of communications. BBSes are uniquely democratic, and drawing them into the Internet will only make them more powerful in that role. And, the folks on the Internet could use things like RIPscrip.. there really doesn't exist anything quite like it on Internet. I'd love to see PC-based BBSes transition into Internet and bring their own innovations with them.

Last comment.. you mentioned that you would cover the Amiga whenever there was anything interesting

there to cover. In the same issue, you cover Demos (with a mention on the cover, even), a phenomenon that has been prevalent in the Amiga world since 1986. Fair is not required, but Amiga users have had their own innovations. The sound that you hear on most PC demos is based on the MOD sound file format that was invented on the Amiga for Euro-Demos. I suspect that the Amiga MOD file format might be the Amiga's most long-lasting contribution to the computer world.

Interesting is where you find it. I myself find discussions of IRQ's and multi-tasking add-ons to DOS quite uninteresting. I do hope that we can preserve all the truly interesting innovations, wherever they may be from and bring them together into the Internet for all to enjoy.

Thanks for the magazine. Your experience shows. I found some of your biases enough in conflict with my own that it set my teeth on edge, but I enjoyed a lot of it.

Jonathan Abbey  
JONABBEY@CS.UTEXAS.EDU  
Applied Research Laboratories  
The University of Texas at Austin

Jonathan:

*I wasn't aware of that point of view. Now that you've described it in that sense, I agree with you fully...er...well mostly.*

*Actually you rather make my case. Most of what you describe in very informative and persuasive terms falls under the rubric of interface development, the point of the ramble, more than a defense of UNIX as a religious and mystical experience. I rather like Gopher's myself, largely because they allow me to mail myself files rather than download them. The massive interconnection seems extraordinarily wasteful of resource, but interesting certainly. The "massive menu" analogy was probably a cheap shot. World Wide Web is likewise fascinating - all true.*

*You think the Internet-ification of bulletin boards is important, and bulletin boards as the interface to the Internet not. You say potatoe, I say potato. They will marry and have children. And clearly we see it from different perspectives - though the vision really isn't that different ultimately. I think in*

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*the coming collision of cultures, bulletin boards will consume and subsume the Internet to the point you won't be able to find even pieces of it left the same when it is over. But certainly the world of bulletin boards will be changed forever as well. Extant among many on the Internet is the sincere belief that the Internet will make bulletin boards disappear from the face of the earth. It sounds like minds in search of terms to me. I do have some minor experience in both camps, and am pretty confident of my view of the future developments headed your/our way. For the good parts, and the bad parts, I can't stop any of it, nor would I. All I can say is get a grip on that WYSE-50 terminal and hang to hell on buddy.*

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

I have just read the August issue of Boardwatch, and am extremely glad to see so much emphasis on educational telecommunications.

I have decided to post to you some information regarding the work we are doing in Hong Kong towards that same goal.

I am currently a 12 grade student studying in a secondary school in Hong Kong. A group of students from different schools in Hong Kong are currently working on a project to link together other interested secondary school using fidonet BBS technology, which we view is the cheapest and easiest to implement.

This project has been going for 1 year on a low profile now, and we currently have 5 schools connected together, and are working with a few more. We are working toward getting a Usenet and Internet Email feed.

The coming school year we will go on a high profile and hold seminars to offer this technology to schools all around Hong Kong.

We find that the biggest problem here is to get school administrations interested in this type of technology and to accept it. We are aiming now at students to do all the work of administrating and setting up the software. The organization currently consists totally of students with

two teachers overseeing it. I see this as an exciting era for Hong Kong in telecommunications for students and schools.

Basic information about the organization.

Name : CLASSlink (Computerized Linked Association of Students and Schools)

Founded : April 1992

Chairman: Joseph Yang

Size : 6 School nodes (BBSes operated by schools) 15 student nodes (BBSes operated by students)

# of conferences : 20 echo conferences ranging from general chatting to religious issues.

Future Expansion : Internet Email/ftp through Email/Usenet Seminars held throughout the year for schools

Thank you for your attention.

Joseph Yang  
(Network Co-Ordinator of CLASSlink)  
Fidonet 6:700/335  
Internet  
Joseph.Yang@f335.n700.z6.fidonet.org

Hi Jack,

You may not know it but I'm a subscriber of Boardwatch in a round-about sort of way. I get my copy from a magazine reseller here in the Philippines. What I don't understand is why I only give him US\$50 pesos for one year's subscription to your magazine. If I subscribe direct from you, it will cost me \$99. Why is this so? I used to share copies of your magazine with Carlos Legaspi who has a direct subscription from you. Now that we both have subscriptions, my copy arrives earlier than Carlos's copy. Crazy situation, isn't it?

In your July 1993 issue, on page 52, you printed a picture with the caption "Philippine's Manila Bay with Mount Pinatubo". I hate to say this but Mount Pinatubo is nowhere in the picture. What is shown on the picture are the following sites. On the right middle portion is Taal Lake with Taal Volcano, the only volcano inside a volcano crater. And the upper right portion looking like a T-Rex footprint is Laguna de Bay. The tadpole shaped island on the mouth of the bay is Corregidor

island, where the Allied forces had their last stand before the advancing Japanese army in World War II.

Mount Pinatubo is to the northwest of Manila Bay. In the picture, it should be somewhere around one inch to the left side of the picture. Your printer must have made a mistake in the cropping of the picture.

Have a nice day!

Jojo Sybico  
jojo.sybico@fl.n754.z6.fidonet.org  
13 Happy Valley, Cebu City  
Philippines  
BBS (6332) 221-545

Mr. Sybico:

*Kumusta-ka karon. Nadawat-ko-ang-sulat-mo. Our apologies for the error regarding Pinatubo. I'm not sure what happened, but if we moved it, by all means go ahead and move it back.*

*With regards to the magazine, I haven't a clue. Boardwatch is now available to some minor degree or other in some 60 countries, without rhyme or reason, and it does indeed get strange. We have never mastered the intricacies of moving pounds of paper worldwide quickly and at endurable expense. I've heard we've been almost solely responsible for a surge in photocopier toner shipments into Europe. I hope so, as I intend to visit there soon for TWO BBSCON next year and I'd love to bag a few illicit distributors to pay for the trip.*

*Actually, I'm most pleased to hear from you specifically as you operate a BBS in Cebu City itself - the first I've heard of. My wife is from Catmon, perhaps thirty kilometers to the north of you up the coast, and my technical director just married a woman from Cebu City proper. We'll come visit, talk BBS stuff, and drink tuba.*

Daghang-Salamat

Jack Rickard

Jack:

I just recently discovered your very interesting magazine. I have been modding for the past ten years, but just happened on the July '93 issue in my local grocery store. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and the August issue, and am looking forward to

future issues.

In response to Steven Krause's letter and your reply in the August issue; I agree with your philosophy about reporting on interesting things. It is probably the thing that makes Boardwatch so much more interesting to read than the typical computer magazine, most of which will put almost anyone to sleep. Even though it is stated that fairness is not your motivation, I think nevertheless your attitude (focus on the interesting) regarding various platform coverage is very fair. I do not see the usefulness in covering every available platform just for the sake of being democratic. However I do disagree with Mr. Krause on his views about the Amiga supposedly being dead in the U.S. There are thousands of us who telecommunicate using Amiga computers. The Amiga world is very much alive. It is just much smaller than the MSDOS or Mac world. These users have a right to write to a magazine to let it know they exist, when much of the computer world seems to act as if this is not the case. Why this seems to bother Mr. Krause, I cannot tell, since he gave no rational reason for saying so. Much of the information and views found in this magazine are very interesting to users of all computers, and are not machine specific, anyway. Indeed, the thing that makes modeming so different compared to most of the rest of the computer world is that most of the time it is not machine specific. It also allows communication easily between different platforms and their users. Many times information is addressed which applies to more than one platform, such as in the case of graphics conversions, or reading disks from another platform. Users are people, and computers are just tools to be used in various ways, depending on what each person needs to accomplish. I have been a multiple platform user for several years. Each one has its strengths and weaknesses. The 386 is great for viewing SVGA graphics, and for print-emerging to continuous mount envelopes with MS Word. I usually prefer the Amiga for telecommunications, because it has my favorite communication program, is easier to boot up, and is easier to multitask with. As I type this in a word processor program, I am downloading a file off a BBS, printing out my first draft of

this letter, formatting a floppy disk, and running a game in the background, which I could be playing during the download. In conclusion, thanks for focusing on the interesting, and for covering a variety of topics that all modem users can benefit from reading, regardless of their platform(s).

John R. Lewis, Irving, TX  
j.lewis7@genie.geis.com

John:

*I wasn't aware of that point of view. Now that you've described it in that sense, I agree with you fully...er...well mostly.*

Jack Rickard

Jack,

A friend of mine in the UK has signed up for a type of FULL Internet connectivity that I have not seen offered much in the US. Through a company called Demon Internet, Ltd., he gets a permanent Internet node number assigned to him and can make his PC an actual Internet node while dialed in, using Point to Point Protocol (PPP). This allows him to FTP files directly to/from his hard disk, and run various types of GUI clients, etc.

This service is available from NEARnet in the Boston area for around \$200 per month, but I don't understand why it should necessarily be an expensive service to provide.

What does this service cost through Demon? Ten pounds (\$ 15) per month, with \$0 per hour connect charge!

My friend runs a shareware TCP/IP software on his PC, so there is no big expense there either.

Demon can be contacted at internet@demo.co.uk or voice: 081 349-0063.

They have a text file explaining their background, equipment, etc.

Is this happening in the US to your knowledge? Sounds like this could be a big opportunity for some alert BBS operators.

Chris MacPhail  
71045,3306@compuserve.com

Chris:

*Thanks for the note. Where to get an Internet connection in the UK does come up occasionally, and there we have it. The drive for lower cost connections is underway, but currently the host provider market is chaos on virtually a worldwide basis.*

*The costs of providing service are relatively negligible. Everyone is trying to figure out what the traffic will bear, and there is a near hysterical fear driven by the perception, rather real, that the difference between a supplier and customer is generally just a matter of point of view. People are writing goofy and generally unenforceable contracts, making irrational pricing and service decisions driven by the fact that anyone who buys Internet can likewise sell Internet; the more of it you sell, the more valuable it becomes, and the more of it there is to sell. Most of what people do with the Internet is shrouded in caution because they fear their "feed" will be cutoff. And at the other end, they are shrouded in caution for fear you will find a different "feed" at 1/4 of the price they are charging you. Some BBS operators are paying \$400 per month to pass trivial amounts of mail via UUCP dialup account. Others a few miles away pay \$5 per month. If we could get all this into one viewfinder, it would be comical. I would predict within 18 months the price will dive toward cost, and the volume will explode in a frenzy of "hooking up" down to coke machines, M&M machines, and individual telephones. Within five years, most of us will use video phones and basic personal e-mail will be built into the phone itself. It should be a profoundly exciting, and confusing, period.*

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I wanted to congratulate you on the success of ONE BBSCON. It was one of the most hectic five days in my life—and one of the most fun. I met a lot of people; I learned a lot from them.

And, to my surprise, everyone was nice. At many shows (both for busi-



nesses and hobbyists), the Jerk Quotient is around 30%. But 94.3% of the folks at ONE BBSCON were nice (the others may just have had jet lag). I don't know how you managed it... but thanks just the same.

Many of the people I met talked about the size of the show. Some were thrilled to see so many new faces. Others wondered if the online community would lose its sense of community as it grew. I thought about that a lot on the way home; here's what I decided:

When I bought a modem in 1987, I moved into a small town. It's become a swaggering boom town—it'll become a metropolis soon. I know how settlers on the frontier felt when they saw their first railroad workers... I see the future a-coming, and I'm not sure I'm a-gonna like it.

But if we truly are a community, then my sociology and anthropology classes tell me that we have to grow. Closed cultures don't last—they become cliques or cults and then die. When societies develop cities, they advance; when cities collapse, the society dies.

I'm sure I'll see some horrible things in online cities—just like I have in the real ones. And I'm sure life in online cities will drive me crazy at times, and I'll need to get away from it all.

But I live in a city now because I like the hustle and bustle. I like having everything so close to me. I like being able to meet so many different people. Life in the electronic city should be just as fascinating when everyone moves in.

And the interstates didn't wipe out every small town (trust me, I drove to ONE BBSCON via routes 40 and 94)... Why should information superhighways wipe out local systems?

Some people will always get turned off by too many people, too many rules and too little friendliness. They've always found spots off the beaten path before—I think they always will.

Anyway, a sense of community is really in the eye of the beholder. Woodstock had 400,000 people in space set up for 20,000, torrential

rains and almost no hot food, medical care or plumbing... and people still rave about how wonderful it was.

Thanks again for the wonderful time,

Geoff Beckman  
Vice President for Operations,  
Searchlight Software  
72714.3633@compuserve.com

Dear Geoff:

*Very pleased you found our little gathering interesting. Our jerk quotient really is quite low at ONE BBSCON, and we work at that a bit. But I think some of it is just infectious. I know several genuine known jerks who come each year, but somehow when they get around all those people having fun, they tend to mellow a bit - just for the week.*

*As to the civilization/settlement of cyberspace, a lot of our mail tends to rail against it. It's moot. All new industries and technological new deals from radio to automobiles, to television, etc. go through approximately the same dispersal/maturation pattern. Bulletin Boards will do the same, and moaning about how good the good old days were serves little purpose, and probably isn't entirely given to accurate recollection in any event. I agree, there will always be a corner tavern as long as we protect the ability for individuals to be able to operate a BBS inexpensively, and most importantly, without fear of government storm troopers. It is every man's printing press finally come to fruition, and there are those who do feel very threatened by the mere existence of such a thing.*

Jack Rickard

Jack,

Allow me to be among the first to congratulate you (by e-mail anyway) for a very successful ONE BBSCON. I thoroughly enjoyed the event, as I did last year's. On the very first evening, within a few moments of arriving at the reception, I got some advice regarding my telephone charges that essentially paid for the cost of the entire trip!

I do have a couple of suggestions for

next year. First, the vendor exhibit was too short, and due to its increased size, conflicted too much with the educational sessions. I missed more sessions than I attended. I would like to see the vendor exhibit area open on the first day next year.

Second, there was not enough space available on the literature tables that were made available to non-exhibitors. While this was a great idea and very welcome, it quickly turned into a free-for all with exhibitors using the space for literature that could also be found in their booths, and people stacking papers on top of papers and competing for space. I suggest that more space be available next year and exhibitors be discouraged from using it.

I am particularly excited with the prospect of a trade association being formed during the next few months. This is needed in our industry and I am looking forward to having a voice in Washington and promoting more unity and understanding among the members of our emerging profession.

Yours very Truly,  
Jeff Wolkove  
Sysop,  
Somewhere Out There BBS (602)  
838-9759  
76460.241@COMPUSERVE.COM

Jack,

My wife and I just returned from the ONE BBSCON, 1994 version, and I have a couple of comments. You and Phil, with your ONE, Inc., have proven that the best and most successful business is one where it's a Win/Win situation. Knowing the both of you, I'd pretty well assume that it was financially successful for you, and I want to assure you that I think \*I\* got a bargain. There were so many great sessions, the vendor floor was wonderful, the location was beautiful, etc, etc. If I had your way with words, perhaps I could come up with some more superlatives.... Once again, your able crew of Peggy, Holly, and Liz Hoffman & Associates did a great job.

I heard NO negative comments from anyone that amounted to anything at all. It seems that most people share my pleasure in attending the

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Connecticut Department  
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premier BBS gathering. The only real dark note would be the worry about what you'll do next year to top this one. It's hard to imagine it's being better once again, but then, I thought that last year. Any sysop who doesn't attend the ONE BBSCON either is wildly successful and doesn't want to share "anything", or is just plain missing out. As most of the well-known sysops were in attendance this year (and last), I'd have to put non-attendees in the "missing out" category. It's for sure that I got my money's worth, and then some.

One comment I've heard from non-attendees is that they're worried about their non-BBS'ing, mostly female-type spouse. "She'll be bored to tears, and refuses to sit in a hotel room for 4 days while I have fun, so I can't go." That is a nonsense excuse! My wife takes the opportunity to visit local sights while at these things, and doesn't mind company. I've seen her and a friend or 2 take off every single day. And, once you've attended one 'Con, you have friends to see year after year.

However, I observed something interesting this year. There were at least 3 sysops whom I had met electronically who had their non-BBS'ing spouses registered and attending sessions. Some of them were splitting up, one attending one session, and the other attending a different one. In some cases, the spouse had never logged onto the BBS, but was apparently interested enough in the business aspect to attend and take notes. Is this a harbinger of the future?

It's not a good thing to wish your life away, and I'm sure that you and Phil both need a vacation pretty badly, but I nearly wish it was mid-1994 and only a couple of weeks from the ONE BBSCON. We're sure looking forward to it!

Jim Dunmeyer

Jim:

*Thanks for the note of encouragement Jim. From what I have seen of your wife, I have a little difficulty picturing her bored to tears, or letting much grass grow under her feet for that matter. I rather gather that all*

*spouses/spousettes are not necessarily that independently resourceful (or supportive for that matter). You're a rich man Jim - whatever your bank account.*

*If it's any consolation, I haven't had a vacation in years, and probably would be completely confused by one. We've already started plotting and planning ONE BBSCON '94 for Atlanta - August 17-21, 1994. Yes, it will be different, as '93 was "different" from '92. The intention of course is to take lessons learned, and get better again. We'll see.*

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

Just a quick note as I return from ONE BBSCON. I wanted to give you a Phil Becker another "that-a-boy" for a job well done. I thought last year was going to be hard to beat, but your team did it!

I was especially pleased to walk into the exhibit hall and see all the vendors, many with new "high tech" booths designed just in time for ONE BBSCON. This trend shows our industry is truly maturing as we all try to one-up our competition. The entire BBS community benefits from this friendly competition, because it motivates us to "push the envelope" and come out with new solutions to the age old problem of delivering information. After looking at all of the new product launches, it also occurred to me that ONE BBSCON has become the yearly event we all target for new product roll-outs! The BBS industry needed a target for all of us to shoot at. The benefit is focus and hard work to get everything done quickly. :)

I also noticed a friendlier attitude in the air as I walked the convention area. Not only did I get a chance to visit and exchange kind words with Scott Brinker (Major BBS), but I could help from noticing Wildcat!, Major, TBBS and PCBoard sysops mixing it up and generally having a great time. It just confirms the fact that Sysops are some of the nicest, helpful and "open" bunch of entrepreneurs on the planet.

I also enjoyed visiting with all of our

friends from last year and meet new ones this year. I know our Wildcat! and Qmodem customers enjoyed visiting with our six engineers as well. Now we have to get busy working on all the promises we made. :)

Finally, I must admit, the Colorado mountains and moon bright skies are more breathtaking than I could ever describe. You couldn't have found a better backdrop for this convention. Now I know why you call it "Gods Country".

Once again, great job and give our congratulations to the rest of the ONE Inc. Team!

Jim Harter  
Mustang Software, Inc.  
76004.1552@COMPUSERVE.COM

Jim:

*I wasn't aware of that point of view. Now that you've described it in that sense, I agree with you fully...er...yes...fully.*

*Actually, you've keyed on what for me was the most satisfying aspect of ONE BBSCON. The BBS operators, from CompuServe forum guys, Prodigy administrators, government BBS operators, single line BBS operators, UNIX gurus, megaBBS operators, and of all software persuasions, seemed to drop the usual platform and BBS chauvinism schtick and just had a good time as being part of the same thing, in a way that changes the whole event. Even long-time rivals in the vendor end of things, as you point out, seemed to have an entirely different, and I think maturing view of just what it means to compete. After you've tried to burn down your competitor's house, bulldoze the debris, plow the ground where it stood, planted crops over the top of it, to the point where their children can never find the place where the family home stood, and then burned all their clothes, run off their livestock, and drained the pond, it's still ok to admit you're all in the same industry and probably have more in common with these guys than with most other people you run into on a day to day basis.*

*Jim Warren's keynote on Cooperative Competition was right on the money, and we saw it operating at all levels. Professional sysops of major bulletin*

boards, who've been competing with no quarter asked or given for years, sat down at those roundtables, discussed the issues publicly among themselves, and REALLY did share the inside poop on how to get there with an audience aspiring to do the same, in a tradition of "helping the new guy" that always has run through the entire online community from the beginning.

I don't know that we had anything to do with what happened in this respect, but following the "even a blind hog gets an acorn now and again" theory, I'll take credit for any of it you care to bestow. Whatever the reason, I picked up on the spirit of good will there myself, and it nearly enough brought me to tears. If that's all ONE BBSCON ever accomplishes vis a vis this emerging industry, good and well enough - a day's work done.

Jack Rickard

## LETTERS TO BILL GRAM-REEFER

Dear Mr. Gram-Reefer:

I came across your Schools Online article in the July edition of *Boardwatch* magazine. It was most informative. I am in the process of researching Internet connectivity for an Elementary school in my town of Orangeville, in Ontario Canada. I seem to find myself at a disadvantage, being very new to the Internet (learning the different commands alone prove very interesting) and at the same time trying to promote it to this particular educational institution.

Now, I am not limiting myself to just the Internet; any other sources of connectivity would also be investigated. I would appreciate any advice or recommendation as to the best course of action to take in this regard. The focus of your article was primarily in Western Canada. I do not know if any of the schools mentioned in your article would have E-mail access, for I would be very interested in how they got started. I have also heard of a K-12 programme and School-Net. I am not sure if these are U.S. based or not, but again, any information you may have in this regard would be greatly

appreciated.

I thank you for your time in this matter.

Stafford Edwards

Internet:  
monoamar@gpu.utcc.utoronto.ca  
MCI Mail: 594-7892@mcimail.com

Gram-Reefer replies:

Check out the CORE story in the October issue. Contact K12Net at 716-526-6431.

Bill,

I'm blown away. I just got off the phone (at 11:00 PM) with a fellow Maui sysop who read the feature on MauiLink in *Boardwatch* (I hadn't picked it up yet myself) He read me the entire article over the phone, and I was about in tears by the end. Thank you so much for the extensive mention of the entire immersion program as the children, and not myself, are the focal point of the whole project.

Mahalo again for the coverage. I hope I can return the kindness.

A hui hou a malama pono i kou koino,

Keola

Gram-Reefer replies:

From your letter it sounds as if you're making headway on developing your X.25 connectivity. Keep us all posted when you get it going.

Dear Bill,

I saw your name in the August 93 issue of *Boardwatch*. I'm a student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in Toronto, Ontario. As part of a student project, we are constructing a gopher containing resources for teaching from a global perspective. Is the SCHOOLS ONLINE information (p. 65) available to teachers? If so, we would like to include this resource in our gopher.

Judy Norris

Ed.D. Student  
O.I.S.E., Computer Application  
jnorris@oise1.oise.on.ca

Gram-Reefer replies:

Judy, I'm just a dime-a-dozen liberal arts major with an M.A. in History. You young kids are the news, not me. When you've got your gopher ready, give us a holler and tell us all about it. Schools Online should be available as a part of *Boardwatch's* offerings to online systems. You'll have to talk to the devil himself (der publisher) about that.

Hi, and greetings from North Dakota.

Just finished reading the July '93 issue of *Boardwatch* and have just a quick question: Are any of the Schools Online reports available via telnet, ftp, etc.? Thanks.

Gleason Sackman, Coordinator  
BBS: sackman@sendit.nodak.edu  
SENDIT - NoDak's K-12 Telcom Network  
Internet:  
sackman@plains.nodak.edu  
Bitnet: sackman@plains.bitnet

Gram-Reefer replies:

You should be able to get *School Online* as a part of the online text of *Boardwatch Magazine* available to many BBS and online services. Whether Jack will create a free will offering such as a text archive of the past three years of *Boardwatch* available for ftp download from SUMEX, well, I guess miracles can happen.

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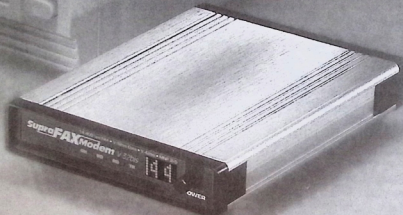
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## TELEBITS

### HAYES ENLISTS BBS OPERATORS IN TESTING OF V.FC MODEMS

Eight of the world's largest bulletin board systems and three major North American FidoNet mail hubs met with Hayes Microcomputer Products President Dennis Hayes at ONE BBSCON and announced their plans to support V.Fast Class (V.FC) modems. In addition, they agreed to participate with Hayes in extensive V.FC modem testing to provide a smooth transition for their users from the current 14,400 bps V.32bis standard

to the higher 28,800 bps V.FC standard.

The eight participating bulletin board systems, representing over 100,000 users include **Aquila BBS** of Aurora, Illinois; **Event Horizons BBS** of Portland, Oregon; **Executive Network** of Mount Vernon, New York; **EXEC-PC** of Elm Grove, Wisconsin; the **Invention Factory** of New York, New York; **PC-Ohio** of Cleveland, Ohio; **Sound Advice** of

Gladstone, Missouri; and **Sound of Music** of Oceanside, New York. The three FidoNet mail hubs are located in New Orleans Louisiana, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, and Las Vegas Nevada. All these systems intend to have V.FC modems on their BBS by year's end and to work to ensure their BBS software is ready to take advantage of the higher 28.8 kbps speeds.

"We are very pleased to work with

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| AT&T Paradyne           | Dataport 14.4           | \$515  | \$206 | 813-532-5254 | 813-530-2000 | 813-530-2398 |
| ATI Technologies        | 9600 ETC-E              | \$499  | \$275 | 416-756-4591 | 416-756-0718 | 416-756-0720 |
| Cardinal Technologies   | 9600V42 V.32            | \$349  | \$219 | 717-293-3074 | 717-293-3000 | 717-293-3104 |
| Cardinal Technologies   | 14400V42 V.32bis        | \$449  | \$249 | 717-293-3074 | 717-293-3000 | 717-293-3104 |
| Computer Peripherals    | Viva 9624e V.32         | \$349  | \$249 | 805-499-9646 | 805-499-5751 | 805-498-8306 |
| Digicom Systems         | ScoutPlus V.32bis/FAX   | \$289  | \$158 | 408-262-1412 | 408-262-1277 | 408-262-1390 |
| Digicom Systems         | Scout V.32              | \$259  | \$155 | 408-262-1412 | 408-262-1277 | 408-262-1390 |
| Digicom Systems         | Connection 96+ V.32bis  | \$199  | \$139 | 408-262-1412 | 408-262-1277 | 408-262-1390 |
| Galaxy Networks         | UFO V.32bis             | \$999  | \$299 | No BBS       | 818-998-7851 | 818-998-1758 |
| GVC Technologies        | FM-9696/144V V.32bis    | \$689  | \$413 | 201-579-2380 | 201-579-3630 | 201-579-2702 |
| GVC Technologies        | SM-96V V.32             | \$599  | \$329 | 201-579-2380 | 201-579-3630 | 201-579-2702 |
| Hayes Microcomputer     | Ultra 144 V.32bis       | \$999  | \$249 | 404-446-6336 | 404-840-9200 | 404-449-0087 |
| Hayes Microcomputer     | Optima 144+Fax          | \$519  | \$179 | 404-446-6336 | 404-840-9200 | 404-449-0087 |
| Hayes Microcomputer     | ISDN System Adapter     | \$1199 | \$450 | 404-446-6336 | 404-840-9200 | 404-449-0087 |
| Image Communications    | Twincomm 9600 V.32      | \$299  | \$279 | No BBS       | 201-935-8880 | 201-935-6548 |
| Intel Corporation       | 14.4EX V.32bis          | \$549  | \$269 | 503-645-6275 | 503-629-7000 | 503-228-9707 |
| Intel Corporation       | 9600EX V.32             | \$599  | \$299 | 503-645-6275 | 503-629-7000 | 503-228-9707 |
| Multi-Tech Systems      | MT932BA V.32            | \$869  | \$435 | 612-785-9875 | 612-785-3500 | 612-785-9874 |
| Multi-Tech Systems      | MT1432BA V.32bis        | \$899  | \$450 | 612-785-9875 | 612-785-3500 | 612-785-9874 |
| Practical Peripherals   | PM14400FXSA V.32bis     | \$549  | \$250 | 805-496-4445 | 805-497-4774 | 805-374-7202 |
| Practical Peripherals   | PM14400FXMT V.32bis     | \$399  | \$200 | 805-496-4445 | 805-497-4774 | 805-374-7202 |
| Quadralink Technologies | 1496V+                  | \$360  | \$320 | 416-538-9999 | 416-538-0101 | 416-538-1355 |
| Supra Corporation       | SupraFAX V.32bis        | \$399  | \$149 | 503-967-2444 | 503-967-2400 | 503-967-2401 |
| Teletbit Corporation    | T3000 V.32bis           | \$949  | \$399 | 408-745-3861 | 408-734-4333 | 408-734-3333 |
| Teletbit Corporation    | WorldBlazer             | \$1049 | \$429 | 408-745-3861 | 408-734-4333 | 408-734-3333 |
| Teletbit Corporation    | QBlazer V.32bis         | \$549  | \$299 | 408-745-3861 | 408-734-4333 | 408-734-3333 |
| U.S. Robotics           | Courier DS V.32bis/Fax  | \$1295 | \$449 | 708-982-5092 | 708-982-5010 | 708-982-0823 |
| U.S. Robotics           | Courier V.32bis/Fax     | \$695  | \$299 | 708-982-5092 | 708-982-5010 | 708-982-0823 |
| U.S. Robotics           | Courier HST V.32bis/Fax | \$995  | \$349 | 708-982-5092 | 708-982-5010 | 708-982-0823 |
| Ven-Tel                 | EC96 V.32               | \$699  | \$439 | 408-922-0988 | 408-436-7400 | 408-436-7451 |
| ZyXEL                   | U-1496 +V.32bis         | \$989  | \$499 | 714-693-0762 | 714-693-0804 | 714-693-0705 |
| ZyXEL                   | U-1496E+V.32bis         | \$649  | \$349 | 714-693-0762 | 714-693-0804 | 714-693-0705 |
| ZyXEL                   | U-1496E V.32bis         | \$469  | \$249 | 714-693-0762 | 714-693-0804 | 714-693-0705 |
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Hayes on this project," said Kevin Behrens, sysop of Aquila BBS, winner of the 1993 Dvorak/Zoom Excellence in Telecommunications award for Outstanding BBS Organization, Features and Design. "Our goal is to serve our users by making sure that we support the fastest possible modems as soon as they become available."

In addition to the BBS support, three major bulletin board software companies also announced their participation with Hayes in testing V.FC modems to ensure their software is ready to support the new higher speed. Clark Development Corporation, makers of PCBoard, eSoft, Inc., developers of TBBS, and Mustang Software, Inc., makers of Wildcat! BBS, all signed on to the program.

"Part of our responsibility as an industry leader is to work with sysops and BBS software developers to ensure users a smooth transition to V.FC and eventually to the V.Fast standard once it is officially passed by the ITU-T in mid-1994," said Hayes President Dennis C. Hayes.

The decision to support V.FC was based on the market need for a non-proprietary interim standard that offers the higher speed today and will provide the forward compatibility to the V.Fast standard in the future. With the trend to multimedia and large graphic files being downloaded from bulletin boards, the higher speed will allow sysops to grow their BBS operation without a large increase in operating costs associated with additional telephone lines.

"The doubling of the speed of standard modems to 28.8 kbit/s will make a major impact on the mail exchange on FidoNet, resulting in a significant cost savings for our regional mail coordinators," said George Peace, North American FidoNet Mail Zone Hub. "By working with Hayes prior to availability of V.FC modems, we will be prepared to support faster transmission throughout the network."

The move by Hayes to enlist BBS operators would seem to settle a strangely brewing battle over what to use as a high speed standard while waiting for glacially slow ITU

approval process to bless the new V.Fast standard, originally developed by Motorola Codex. While V.FC appears to be winning, some modem manufacturers, led by U.S. Robotics, have introduced a 19,200 bps technology they call V.32terbo. While everyone agrees V.Fast will ultimately be the winner, the current battle seems to revolve around the many things that could be done before V.Fast approval, and V.FC and V.32terbo seem to be the code words for the two emerging camps.

V.FC was developed in a cooperative R&D project between Hayes and Rockwell International Corporation, is being made available to modem manufacturers throughout the industry, enabling development of modems that can communicate at speeds up to 28,800 bits-per-second (bps) prior to the adoption by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU - successor to the earlier CCITT standards body) of the official V.Fast standard. With V.42bis compression, V.FC can theoretically deliver data rates as high as 115 kbps. Some 123 modem manufacturers representing 85% of total high speed modem production announced an agreement to back V.FC on September 7 while US Robotics continues to tout V.32terbo as the interim standard.

The V.FC technology uses line probing techniques to tune symbol rates to actual telephone network conditions to achieve the maximum throughput the network can carry at any given time. V.FC uses the multi-dimensional trellis coding expected to be approved by ITU-T as the V.Fast standard. Hayes claims the V.FC technology is significantly more immune to noise than V.32terbo. By enlisting the support of some of the largest bulletin boards in the country, along with most of the major BBS software vendors, Hayes would appear to have secured V.FC as the interim technology.

Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc., 5835 Peachtree Corners East, Norcross, GA 30092; (404)840-9200 voice; (404)441-1238 fax; (800)874-2937 BBS.

## COMPUSERVE INTROS 4.4kbps SERVICE

CompuServe Information Service inaugurated 14,400 bit-per-second dialup service in 10 cities in September including Cambridge, MA; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY; Newport Beach, CA; Orlando, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Rochelle Park, NJ; and Santa Clara, CA. The service will be priced identically to their previous 9600 bps service at \$16 off-peak and the service is expected to introduce 14.4kbps service in all cities over the course of the next year.

## MURDOCH TO PURCHASE DELPHI AS PART OF GLOBAL SATELLITE TV PLANS

Rupert Murdoch News Corp. Ltd. announced on September 8 plans to do TV on a global basis. The media company intends to operate a satellite TV news service titled Sky News and to offer an electronic TV Guide database. The tv end of the deal is intended to compete with Cable News Network (CNN). Interestingly, as part of the program, Murdoch has reached an agreement to purchase the Delphi Internet Services Co. from General Videotex. Delphi is considered to be the fifth largest commercial online service with something over 110,000 subscribers. But the service has been the most aggressive in making the connection to the Internet. And Murdoch is apparently interested in publishing electronic versions of its many newspapers and magazines online. With these publishing properties, and the considerable resources of the Murdoch media machine, Delphi could then be much better equipped to compete with larger services such as Prodigy, CompuServe, GENie, and America Online.

## AOL ON A PALM TOP

America Online has announced an agreement with Sharp Electronics to provide a palmtop version of their AOL terminal program for bundling with the new Sharp PT-9000 Personal Information Assistant. The PT-9000 is being positioned as a palmtop computer for communications and the AOL interface will make it easy for users to use the America Online Service.

## ONE BBSCON

### ONE BBSCON - IT HAPPENED

by Jack Rickard

The Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention was in fact held August 25-29th at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Nearly 2,000 BBS operators and similarly inclined parties attended the event, and having played a part in hosting it, I'll still say it in print - it absolutely took your breath away (in a couple of ways actually given the 6,000 ft altitude).

Despite having barely closed my eyes during the whole four days, I didn't see all of it nor really get a good idea of what was going on. There were so many "deals" being cut in so many corners so fast, I had the vague impression I was missing most of it the whole time. And given all the schmoozing and gabbing, I did rather

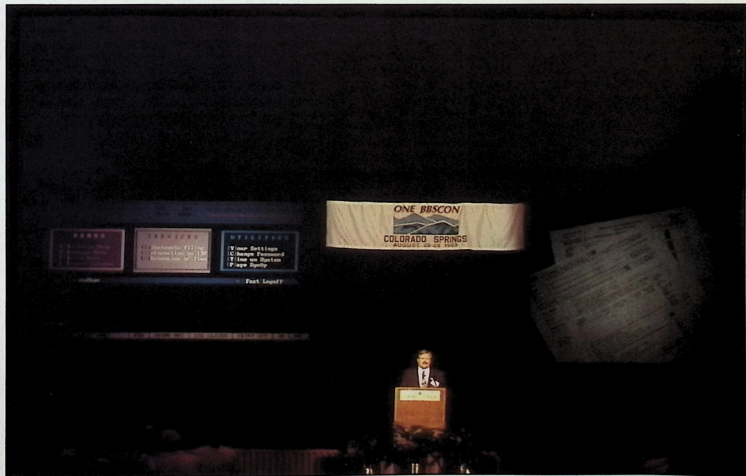
a poor job of what I normally do best, digging out the good stuff and writing about it. What we DID see there would more likely make one of John C. Dvorak's "fat books with disks" than it would a magazine article, but we're going to try to piece one together out of notes jotted on the backs of business cards.

As to technology, there were three things that jumped out a bit at the convention. Graphics, the Internet connection, and some rather surprising efforts to bypass telcos to deliver data. There were some new faces, and some awards events that caused a bit of a stir. We'll try to break this down into pieces, Gbut it has to be a little shallow to get it all in.

### GRAPHICS

The big winner from the '92 convention was Remote Imaging Protocol or RIP. In the past year, most of the BBS software developers and two major terminal programs have incorporated some semblance of RIP into their products. The three gents from TeleGrafix Communications, Inc. that developed RIP received one of the John C. Dvorak Awards for Excellence in Telecommunications Technology held on Friday evening in Broadmoor West.

RIP itself was represented by a booth with the boys from TeleGrafix. It was a bit disappointing in that the much heralded RIP II specification, which was to include photo-realistic JPEG images, just wasn't ready. They showed a videotape of what it



Phil Becker - ONE, Inc., Addresses Opening Session of ONE BBSCON

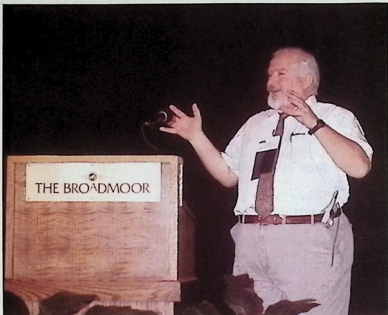


correction in a pretty handsome way. It's here, it works, and it will knock your eyes out. Technologically, I would claim this RoboBoard stuff is about a light year ahead of RIP, but because RIP is so easy to implement, the other BBS developers are unlikely to even give RoboBoard FX a good looking over. For those with an ear to hear and eye to doing things right, **DON'T OVERLOOK THIS PRODUCT!** It wouldn't be the first superior technology to lose the standards wars in computerville, but it would be a shame - again.

The other protocol that refuses to die is **NAPLPS**. Colonel Dave Hughes has been working with some Russian programmers for nearly a year on a terminal program called **TROIKA**. He showed up with the stuff in a box ready to sell (pretty nice looking box actually) and it looks a lot like it works in places. Particularly interesting, **TROIKA** will actually automatically **UUCODE** and **UUCODE** graphics for transmission over the Internet. Unlike RIP, **NAPLPS** is quite device independent and more favorably, supports international character sets very well. JPEG and mouse are the weak areas, and Colonel Dave says it's "in there" or will be soon. **MOST INTERESTINGLY**, the Troika booth was gaining a LOT of attention from the **PRODIGY** people who showed up at **ONE BBSCON** in force. Why? Well, Prodigy is quite **NAPLPS** based, but rumor has it

that they are making some **SERIOUS** moves at opening up their connection. They are already beta testing their own **Prodigy Mail Manager** for offline Prodigy mail. But rumor has it they may be wanting to get some third party action going for utilities to deal with Prodigy - possibly even to the point of publishing a specification in a controlled fashion. Their two million callers, even after the dip in users from their new pricing scheme, is not an inconsequential portion of the online world. It all had Colonel Dave holding pretty enthusiastically close order drill over at the Troika booth. The other group that seemed quite interested in this product was the education sector.

A final graphics mention has to go to **Durand Communications**. These people have married graphics with the database function for



**Jim Warren, keynote speaker on "Cooperative Competition."**

**Galacticomm's Major BBS** in a way that has to be admired. You can create a database with associated photo-realistic images that shows what the future is going to look like online. Currently, they are tied to a single platform, and it's not inconsequential to set something like this up. It all pinches and rubs in places, but it's clearly where we are going. Very impressive.

## THE INTERNET

**Bernard Aboba** and **Tim Pozar** put together the **Internet Track** for **ONE BBSCON** this year and it was a big improvement over last year. This is a track that is almost impossible to do. Half the audience isn't sure what the Internet is, and the other half wants to talk about "time to live" fields in the **TCP/IP** specification for packet headers. But these two did a valiant job in trying to pull it all together and it worked.

Part of why it worked was product. Technologically, the BBS community is **MUCH** closer to making the connection than we had thought. For **UUCP** connection to the Internet, it's almost over. **Roy Pereira** of **Merlin Systems** demonstrated his **PCB-UUCP** for **PCBoard** systems. **Mustang Software** actually announced their **wUUCP** product for **Wildcat!** at the show - and showed it. They **ARE** **mustang.com** now and you can get the product immediately at \$99. **Galacticomm** announced that **Chris Ambler** of

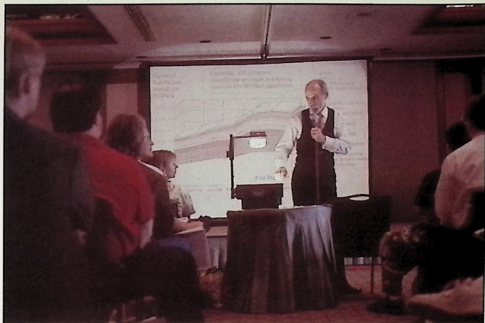


**Opening Session crowd at ONE BBSCON - Slightly under 2,000.**

FSUUCP fame was redoing their **UUCICO** portion of their UUCP connection for Major BBS, and Major BBS operators would no longer have to use the relatively expensive **UULINK** software in addition to the Galaticomm package. We of course showed our **PIMP** product for TBBS and fuschia fedoras festooned the festivities furiously if at times frivolously far and wide. Generally, the UUCP battle is over. Virtually any BBS system in the world technically CAN now exchange mail with the Internet domain name e-mail system. Finding a UUCP host continues to be a bit of a task, but **Guy Cook** of **Colorado Supernet** and **Arthur Britto** of **Holonet** were on hand to assure attendees that it could be done - signing a few up in the process.

The big news was full IP connectivity for the Internet. At the **eSoft** booth, quite a crowd gathered to watch TBBS operators telnet and ftp in circles into and out of various bulletin boards through a little machine they call the **TBBS Internet Protocol Server**. This is basically a heavily hammered version of **Phil Karn's KASQ** in a 486 machine that acts as a terminal server. It was not lost on most that the TIPS box was connected with serial cables to the TBBS machine, and would probably work about as well with any BBS on the floor. The bad news, it was not a product, but a demonstration of what the BBS/Internet connection would look like. According to developer **Phil Becker**, no product until spring '94 at the earliest.

**Brad Clements** from **MurkWerks** was also on hand for several sessions. This nearly brilliant young programmer has been fussing around with **Novell NLM** programs and has done some impressive stuff with an FTP server for Novell that has caused a stir in some areas. But the BBS world is relatively new to him. He still showed up with a program that basically constitutes a TCP/IP fossil driver for communications programs and bulletin boards. We hope that the 90% of attendees who hadn't the faintest clue what he was talking about did not dissuade him from pursuing this product. We predict within a year EVERYONE will know. It's a SOFTWARE solution to connect bulletin boards to the TCP/IP Internet for telnet and ftp that LOOKS like an ordinary fossil comm port to BBS or



**Dr. Vinton Cerf**  
**President, The Internet Society**

terminal software. Basically, the no dollars and no cents way to connect ANY fossil compatible BBS to the Internet REALLY via Novell. It has the potential to change the online world, and as usual, nobody gets it at first. I'm not sure I do either in any detail, but after all this time rooting around BBSland, I can smell it when I'm in the room with one. You DID read about it here in **Boardwatch** first if anyone asks. More on this product in future issues.

**Dr. Vinton Cerf**, president of the **Internet Society**, arrived Friday and attended a private lunch with software developers trying to connect bulletin boards to the Internet. They were all a little uneasy as to whether they SHOULD be connecting bulletin boards to the Internet. Cerf was about five years ahead of them by the time the main course arrived describing how they could all have coordinated worldwide file directories, tunnel information back and forth, and so on with a vision that left them gasping for air. There's a reason why this gentleman is widely known as the father of the Internet.

Following lunch he delivered a session on the **Past and Future History of the Internet** to about 500 attendees that again set people back in their chairs. We learned that by December, 1993, there will be over 2 billion ping-able hosts on some

**46,000** registered IP networks in **22,000** registered domains strewn across some 91 countries. As of June, 1991, it is NOT primarily academic use, but actually that was the crossover point where commercial applications exceeded academic use. Over **137** countries are now reachable via the Internet domain name e-mail system via UUCP, and the **NSFNet** backbone is now carrying some **7 TERABYTES** of traffic per month. The Internet overall is growing at a rate of **12% per MONTH**. As a humorous aside, he noted that if the current growth rates could be maintained, the number of Internet users and the number of people living on the planet would cross sometime early in the year 2001.

Most impressively, Dr. Cerf not only welcomed the participation of electronic bulletin boards, but described them as a needed interface for the Internet and more specifically as the **Gutenberg press** of the '90s - every man's electronic publishing machine. With regards to the inevitable mix of cultures, he quoted **Dr. David Farber** as originating the operative mixed metaphor for Internetworking - "Necessity is the mother of strange bedfellows." Most of the attendees to this session stumbled from the room to face an world somehow altered in the space of an hour.

Final note on Internet stuff. **Sparky**





Herring, author of the QWK file format for offline mail, marshalled developers in a series of technical meetings to define a kinder and gentler **QWK** specification to allow more flexible communication, and specifically one that will work with Internet file and mail in more cogent fashion. It will happen. He informs us a formal specification will be done this time, released some time in October. We agreed to publish the full specification in all gory detail in Boardwatch as soon as it is available. Non-technoids can always read the letters to the editor section. It's what we do.

## BYPASS TECHNOLOGIES

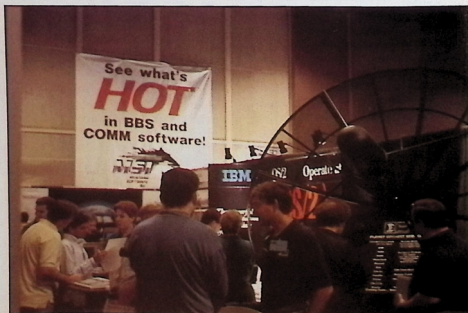
The quantity of data that has to make the trip to a bulletin board carrying FidoNet echomail, Usenet Newsgroups, and a few other services has reached the point where you can leave a couple of 14,400 bps modems connected ALL the time just pumping data into the BBS. 50 MB newsgroup feeds are becoming common. This swelling mountain of bytes is causing some economic distress and the demand for mail just seems insatiable. A lot of the show seemed to revolve around this. The modem manufacturers had part of the answer. Dennis C. Hayes was having secret meetings all over the hotel with BBS operators over their V.FC 28.8 kbps modems which were also on display at an outstanding Hayes booth. Hayes actually sent the card tables to Interop and brought

their good display booth to **ONE BBSCON**. It worked. BBS operators couldn't get enough of it and eight major BBS operators, three major FidoNet mail hubs, and three BBS software developers signed on to the V.FC ship immediately. Zoom Telephonics countered with an incredible \$99 deal on their V.Fast modems. Despite the fact that the modems won't ship for another 60 days, rumor has it that they sold over 500 units in two days on the vendor floor. ZyXel was there in force talking about cellular modems and Practical Peripherals, Digicom and Boca Research were

all cutting deals of the year with BBS operators that clearly came equipped to swap cash for bits-per-second. Boca had some surprising values in multi-port serial cards including a 6 port at \$49 and a 16-port at \$249 with 16550s built in. They moved a bunch of them at those prices.

ISDN had a good shot. Saturday afternoon, Dennis Hayes delivered a "state of the ISDN address" to good effect, followed by back to back sessions delivered by Northern Telecom and AT&T. The RBOCS got a good thrashing for not moving fast enough, but overall, the impression was that ISDN could actually happen in our lifetimes to give bulletin boards a 64 kbps connection. Hayes was selling their ISDN adapter to BBS operators for \$450 - less than half the list price. Tales of free ISDN installation in Tennessee, where about 20 boards are already using it, had those in non-ISDN available areas in mourning.

But the areas drawing the most interest didn't use telephone lines at all. A last minute session by Terry Easton on Interactive Video Data Service packed a room to capacity. This is a new technology where the FCC intends to issue two licenses each to 722 markets over the next year. It is wireless, two way, and licensed like low power TV stations. In fact, it was originally designed as Interactive TV. Easton put forth the thesis that bulletin boards and



"Sure, OS/2 runs satellites - it's in there!"

online services could use this to bypass the local telephone companies altogether.

Two vendors were showing satellite connections. We've covered PageSat's Usenet Newsgroup offering in recent issues. But Joe Overholt's Planet Systems Inc. booth was buried under a pile of sweaty bodies. Overholt, who actually made his fortune with his own form of home-shopping network on television, is dabbling in data delivery by satellite. Notably, he has some technology to do 19,200 bps delivery, as opposed to 9600 bps, and he intends to put EVERYTHING up he can find - including FidoNet backbone echomail traffic, shareware files, Usenet Newsgroups, weather, news, stock prices, - the works. There's some hitches of course, none the least of which is FidoNet organizationally getting over the shock of doing this (which several high level FidoNetters seemed quite willing to do actually). And the program he's designing seems to center around dish/receiver equipment in the \$600-\$700 range with a \$30 or so per month subscription charge. We would know a LOT more about this had we been able to get within 50 feet of his booth. We think you'll hear a lot more about THIS company in future *Boardwatch*'s as well.



Andrew Milner (left) - Remote Access

## NEW FACES

The *ONE BBSCON* flushed out some strange new faces. Not the least of which was Andrew Milner and the Remote Access BBS program. Milner had spent the last several years in Luxembourg and has actually developed an impressive following in Europe for this shareware BBS package. Here in the U.S., despite the fact that a significant percentage of bulletin boards in some areas use this very flexible BBS package, there really wasn't any place in the U.S. to talk to anyone with this product. In the past year, Milner has hooked up with a

group called Wantree Development, and they are deadly serious about bringing Remote Access to commercial product status and making it a contender. From what we could see, they were making all the right moves with a beautiful booth display, very professional product packaging, and some seriously right answers to all the usual questions. Remote Access was originally patterned after Adam Hudson's QuickBBS, but has matured significantly in the past few years to become one of the most flexible and configurable BBS packages available for the price. Remote Access made quite an impression at *ONE BBSCON*.

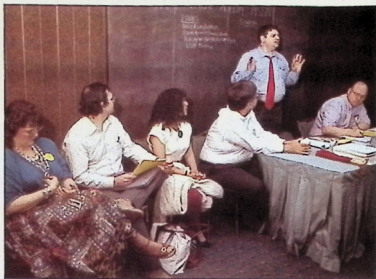
And Milner is serious about a renewed assault on the U.S. market. He is moving from Luxembourg to Tampa Florida this month, and was making the rounds at *ONE BBSCON* in superb style.

Another new face at *ONE BBSCON* was Synchronet. They sported a dirigible on the show floor that was quite visible and the subject of continual comment.

Berkeley Software Design was a new face as well with a UNIX operating system for PCs they were selling for under \$400 at the show, to pretty good effect. MMB Development was showing their UNIX TEAMate BBS but not drawing much of a crowd, - odd because they are probably the best equipped







**National Online Media Association Meeting**  
 "Now after we egg Washington, we're going to sell our boards to the japanese..."



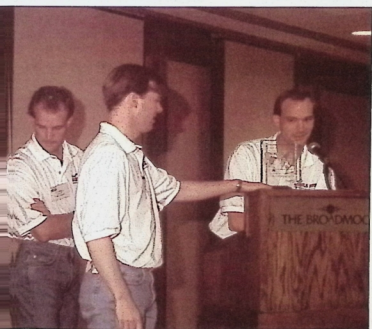
**BBS Success Roundtable**  
 (left to right) Dan Linton - Software Creations, Greg Ryan - EXEC-PC,  
 Norm Henke - PC Ohio, Andy Keeves - Executive Network



**Greg Pearson**  
 Dvorak Award Winner  
 Microcom/MNP



"It doesn't say Hayes until I say it says Hayes."



Aquila BBS  
Dvorak Award Winner  
(l-r) Steve Williams, Kent Behrens, Kevin Behrens



Dan Linton, Software Creations BBS.  
1st Place Boardwatch 100  
Readers' Choice Contest



package to put a BBS on the Internet with full IP connection if you have to do so now.

Wayne Gregori with SFNet was on the floor with models of his RJ-11 table - a terminal program built into a table with coinbox that allows people to swap quarters for time online. Gregori has about 15 of these tables in operation in San Francisco coffee houses, and each one chums about \$500 per month in quarters. Gregori thought he would manufacture the terminals and get other systems to put similar community nets into play across the country. The tables were quite attractive, vandal resistant, and had all the software and hardware to work in a coin operated fashion already done. The booth drew a continuous crowd, but apparently no one wanted to carry one of these home on the airplane. We'll have to check on progress here in a followup report.

## ODD BUT SMILING DUCKS

There were several companies popular at **ONE BBSCON** for no immediately apparent reason, but to good success. Dave Whittle represented IBM with an OS/2 booth. He caused a bit of a stir the first day by announcing that any **ONE BBSCON** attendee that would agree to put an OS/2 discussion/support area on their BBS could take home a copy of the new OS/2 version 2.1 gratis. We

don't know the final count, but at the end of the **FIRST** day he had passed out some 300 copies. And it seems to have worked, the messaging networks have been abuzz since the show over how to get OS/2 to do various things with existing BBS software packages. OS/2 holds some significant potential as a BBS platform, especially given the **ALMOST SECRET IBM TCP/IP** package for OS/2 that rumor has it works and works well. OS/2 with TCP/IP could support multiple lines AND a top flight Internet IP connection more or less effortlessly. But few developers have expressed much interest in it as yet. Post **ONE BBSCON**, this may change significantly. And it could be a way for the new kids to break in. Rumored to be interested - both **RoboBoard** and **Remote Access**.

Another odd but smiling duck at **ONE BBSCON** was MCI. They are dabbling in the concept of a kind of Friends and Family long distance telephone program for BBS and were seriously discussing 8-cent-per-minute long distance rates for bulletin board connections (\$4.80 per hour). If this caught on, it could seriously alter the online topography. Given that over a third of callers are regularly dialing long distance to get on the BBS of choice, and the fact that data calls average over three times the



**Ross Seider - Dvorak Award Winner  
Outstanding Hardware Contribution  
Motorola Codex - V.Fast**

length of voice calls, it starts to make sense. The LD carrier that decodes all this could score a significant coup. MCI wasn't really selling, looked more like a pretty serious fact finding mission.

The oddest thing was to watch all the forward surveillance teams at work. Nearly half a dozen people wandered around studiously trying to look like they didn't work for Microsoft. Not a clue what they were looking for, but they were as systematic as a drill team. It didn't appear that a piece of literature escaped their sweep. Interesting to see what comes of that.

## FINAL MENTIONS

**W**ard Christensen, developer of the first BBS software package for personal computers appeared at both the opening session Thursday morning and his own session on how the first BBS began, to the delight of all attending.

## DVORAK AWARDS

**J**ohn C. Dvorak is an internationally known columnist and co-author with Nick Anis of the best selling book software package **Dvorak's Guide to PC Telecommunications**. Zoom Telephonics is one of the leading manufacturers of modems fax-modems, and other telecommunica-



**Owen Greeson - Dvorak Award Winner  
Crosstalk/Carbon Copy**

modems, and other telecommunications products for personal computers. At **ONE BBSCON '92** they teamed up to introduce the **Dvorak Awards for Telecommunications** to recognize some of the pioneers in PC communications.

At **ONE BBSCON '93**, they presented their second annual series of awards to a standing room only crowd of enthusiasts. John C. Dvorak introduced each award recipient.

#### DENNIS C. HAYES

President, Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.  
Lifetime Achievement Award

**D**ennis C. Hayes founded **Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.**, in 1978 at the age of 28. When he started the company, he already had more than ten years of experience working with large and small computer systems, telecommunications, and electronic product development.

Hayes is best known for redefining the way modems work. Hayes was the first company to bring modems out of the technical environment and into everyday offices by making software control the modem with the Hayes Standard AT Command Set.

Today Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. is a leading worldwide supplier of computer communications hardware and software products. Focusing on global availability, the company designs its products to meet the requirements of more than sixty countries. In addition, Hayes continues to maintain its leadership by entering new markets such as LAN's, ISDN, and facsimile.

A native of South Carolina, Dennis Hayes is active in many industry organizations. He is Founding Chairman of the Georgia High Tech Alliance, the Governor's Advisory Council on Science and Technology development and the Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology. He is also the Georgia representative to the federal Lab Consortium. Mr. Hayes accepted the award in person. Hayes Microcomputer Products, P.O. Box 105203, Atlanta, GA 30348 Tel:(404)840-9200

#### INTERNET

Outstanding  
International Connectivity

**I**n 1973, the **U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)** initiated a research project to investigate techniques and technologies for interlinking packet networks of various kinds. The objective was to develop communications transparently across multiple, linked packet networks. This was called the **Internetworking project** and the system of networks which emerged from the research was known as the **"Internet"**. The system of protocols which was developed over the course of this research effort became known as the **TCP/IP Protocol Suite**, after the two initial protocols developed: **Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)** and **Internet Protocol (IP)**.

In 1986, the **National Science Foundation (NSF)** initiated the development of the **NSFNET** which, today, provides a major backbone communication service for the Internet. With its 45 megabit per second facilities, the NSFNET carries on the order of 12 billion packets per month between the networks it links. In Europe, major international backbones such as **NORDUNET** and others provide connectivity to over one hundred thousand computers on a large number of networks.

The Internet Society is an international professional membership organization devoted to the evolution and propagation of the Internet computer communications technology. It sponsors conferences, publishes newsletters and other material and manages the process by which Internet Standards are set by the **Internet Architecture Board** and **Internet Engineering and Research Task Forces**. The Society seeks to facilitate the development of new applications for the global Internet network of networks and to educate the public in its use. Dr. Vinton Cerf, President of the Internet Society, accepted the award on behalf of the Internet Society. Internet Society, 1895 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 22091 Tel: (703)648-9888, Email: ISOC@nri.reston.va.us

#### MOTOROLA CODEX

Outstanding Hardware Contribution -  
V.Fast Technology

**M**otorola Codex, a part of the Information Systems Group of Motorola Inc., is a leading supplier of network products and integrated network solutions. The company operates in 52 countries through its 11 international subsidiaries and an established distributor organization. Offerings include network management systems, T1/E1 switches, Frame Relay products, X.25 PADs and switches, multiplexers, DSU/CSUs, modems, LAN internetworking devices and professional services. Motorola Codex provides the wireline communications capability of Motorola Inc.

In 1992 Motorola introduced V.fast technology to the marketplace. Although the standard has not been fully accepted by the CCITT, many believe it will become the accepted standard within the next 6 months. Many companies are beginning to develop a new family of V.fast class modems capable of uncompressed data speeds of 19.2Kbps, 24Kbps, and 28.8Kbps.

Motorola is one of the world's leading providers of wireless communications and electronic equipment, systems, components and services for worldwide markets. Products include two-way radios, cellular telephones, pagers, and personal communications systems. Sales in 1992 were \$13.3 billion. The award was accepted by Ross Seider of Motorola Codex. Motorola Codex, Inc., 575 West St., Mansfield, MA Tel:(508)261-4000

#### JOHN MARKOFF

##### THE NEW YORK TIMES

Outstanding Reporting in  
Telecommunications

**J**ohn Markoff joined **The New York Times** in March of 1988 as a reporter for Business Day. He writes about computers and technology issues. He came to the Times from the San Francisco Examiner where he worked for three years.

Mr. Markoff has written about the field of technology since 1977. From 1984 to 1985, he was West Coast editor for Byte Magazine and from 1981 to 1983, he was a reporter for



InfoWorld. From 1983 to 1985 he wrote a personal computer column for the San Jose Mercury News. In 1988 he received the Software Publishers Association's award for best news reporting.

Mr. Markoff is the co-author of *The High Cost of High Tech*, published in 1985 by Harper & Row. More recently he co-authored *Cyberpunk: Outlaws and Hackers on the Computer Frontier* (Simon & Schuster, 1991)

#### **MICROCOM - GREGORY PEARSON AND MNP10 CELLULAR MODEM TECHNOLOGY**

Outstanding Software/Firmware Contribution

**G**regory Pearson is the Senior Vice President of Technology Management for Microcom Systems, Inc. He is also the developer of the error-correction and data compression technique known as Microcom Networking Protocol (MNP). The protocol's design allows a broad range of services to be implemented, while maintaining compatibility among modems with different classes of MNP. For example, a modem capable of MNP Class 5 and V.42bis data compression can talk to a modem that lacks MNP data compression.

Since it's original definition in 1982 with the introduction of MNP1, MNP has evolved through nine levels of enhancements. In 1985 Microcom introduced MNP5 Data Compression. Microcom introduced MNP10 in 1990, which is considered the defacto standard for compensating for harsh line conditions similar to those conditions found in cellular technology. Mr. Pearson accepted the award in person. Microcom, Inc., 500 River Ridge Drive, Norwood, MA 02062 Tel: (617) 551-1000 BBS: (617)762-5134

#### **COMPUSErVE**

Outstanding On-line Information Service

**E**stablished in 1979, the CompuServe Information Service provides its world-wide membership of 1.4 million with more than 1,700 databases and services to meet both business and

personal interests. CompuServe can be accessed by any modem equipped personal computer utilizing the CompuServe Information Manager graphical interface or any general communications software. Compu-Serve was the first consumer on-line information service to offer 9600 bits per second (bps) nationwide. This fall, CompuServe will begin to roll out 14.4 Kilo bits per second (Kbps) access in selected cities.

In addition to the CompuServe Information Service, CompuServe Incorporated provides frame relay, wide and local area networking services, business information services and software to major corporation and government agencies worldwide. CompuServe, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd, Columbus, OH 43220 Tel: (614)457-8600

#### **AQUILA BBS**

Outstanding BBS Organization, Features, and Design

**A**quila has grown into a professional, high quality, on-line service. Being the first to work with new technology, Aquila has tested and research many new products over the past several years. New modems, drives, networks, ISDN interfaces, satellite feeds and many types of software are only some of the technology the team at Aquila has tested.

The Aquila team is no stranger to long hours, beta software, hardware incompatibilities and all the other trials of a major on-line service. The ultimate test came to the team on June 1993 when Aquila BBS was the target of a major lightning bolt that took out the entire system. With major support from all the loyal users, sleepless nights of testing, sorting and reconfiguring, Aquila BBS was back on-line and in full operation within 30 days.

Having faced the major milestones of growing a small hobby BBS system to a full time on-line service, the Aquila team is now one of the industry leaders, sporting 8 gigs of on-line storage, 42 access lines, ISDN Digital access, over 60,000 of the latest shareware files, personal Internet mail boxes, thousands of

Internet news groups via satellite feeds and many very pleased BBS subscribers. AQUILA BBS, Inc., 1700 N. Farnsworth Ave., Aurora, IL 60505 Tel: (708)820-0480 BBS: (708)820-8344

#### **J. OWEN GREESON**

Outstanding Ongoing Software Contributions

**J.** Owen Greeson is a telecommunications pioneer who was influential in fostering the growth of PC telecommunications and remote PC operation products. Owen was closely involved with the success of Crosstalk and Carbon Copy. Both products remain in wide use today.

Mr. Greeson was Vice President of sales and marketing and an equity participant at Automated Design Systems, developers of Microsoft Windows-based LAN utilities. Mr. Greeson remains on the board of ADS and continues as an investor and an adviser. Mr. Greeson established the sales and distribution network for ADS.

From 1986 to 1989, he was Vice President of sales and marketing and an equity participant at Meridian technology, where he led the team that established Carbon Copy Plus as the industry leader in remote control software. Under Mr. Greeson's leadership, Carbon Copy gained a 60% market share before it was sold to Microcom, Inc. in 1989.

From 1982 to 1986 Mr. Greeson was the founding Vice President of Microsoft, where he helped establish Crosstalk as an industry standard for data communications, which was later sold to DCA. Mr. Greeson accepted the award in person. 6135 Barfield Road, Atlanta, GA 30328 Tel: (404)257-9485

#### **DNIS - DATA PORT NETWORK INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Outstanding BBS Gateway To Multiple Information Services

**T**he DNIS bulletin board is an excellent example of a low cost feature-rich community bulletin board system serving the resort community of Palm Springs, CA. Unique features of DNIS include

extraordinary customization of high speed information exchange services such as United Press International, stock market quotes, reports from major brokerage firms, Business News, TechWire and many others.

DNIS information service also offers over 35 electronic news and magazine publications like *Boardwatch*, *USA Today Decisionline*, *EEEEK Bits*, and many others. DNIS connects daily with over 15 mail networks worldwide like *RelayNet*, *Global Link*, and many others including *Internet* and *Usenet*. DNIS has a California wide 800 access number option for it's California members. By 1994 DNIS plans to expand its PCBoard system to over 12 lines, with 13 gigabytes and also install a dedicated 56Kbps line for DNIS' Internet gateway for FTP and Telenet access.

#### TELEGRAFIX COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Outstanding Advanced BBS Graphics Standard

**T**elegrafix Communications Inc. has revolutionized the telecommunications industry by creating the *RIPscrip* (Remote Imaging Protocol) graphics standard. *RIPscrip* allows users to see color graphics while on-line. Finally, there is a way to integrate high-resolution graphics without the need for highly specialized software and the huge overhead of most graphical environments. What's extraordinary about *RIPscrip* graphics is its seamless integration into ordinary terminal and BBS programs, allowing users to operate with programs and features they are already accustomed to. A complete GUI environment with pull down and popup menus, windows, icons, buttons and dialog boxes can now be used by the on-line community. In addition to developing the *RIPscrip* graphics standard, *Telegrafix Communications* offers a complete line of *RIPscrip* graphics development and conversion programs. *Telegrafix Communications, Inc.*, 16458 Bolsa Chica #15, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Tel: (714)379-2131

#### TIM STRYKER - CONSENSUS SYSTEMS INC.

Outstanding Social/Political Contribution Online

**T**im Stryker, President of *Consensus Systems Inc.*, and the author of *Galacticomm Inc. BBS* package The Major BBS, has worked for the past three years on behalf of the concept of electronic democracy, promoting the concept through his book *Think A Little: Evolutionary Perspectives on the Future of Civilization* and is currently developing online software to implement concepts of electronic democracy and consensus building through *Consensus Systems, Inc.*, 12351 NW 2nd St., Plantation, FL 33325; (305)370-7850.

#### BOARDWATCH AWARDS

**T**he Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice Awards were presented at 1:00 PM on Thursday at *ONE BBSCON*. The list of 100 bulletin boards receiving the most ballots in the 1993 contest was made available and the top 10 systems were introduced and presented with a crystal pyramid award noting their achievement. **Greg Ryan**, of second place *Exec-PC*, publicly congratulated **Dan Linton** of *Software Creations BBS*, this year's top winner, in a very gracious gesture. With 20,200 ballots cast, barely 30 votes separated the first and second place awards this year.

The names and addresses of each voter was printed on equal sized paper slips and a drawing was held of six modem winners from among the balloteers.

#### ZYXEL MODEM

**M**unira Brooks of *ZyXEL USA* drew the first two names and acknowledged each would receive one of their top of the line modems. The two *ZyXEL* winners were:

**Shuhaw Lue**, 2840 Gravitte Road, Duluth, GA 30136 who cast a ballot on behalf of *Shareware South BBS*.

**David Williams**, 209 Carl Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 who voted for *The Lost Isle of Melinbone BBS*.

#### HAYES MODEM

**R**andy Cooper, marketing representative for *Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.*, drew two names of the contest winners who will each receive a *Hayes Optima 144* modem. The two drawn were:

**Steve Silverman**, 5405 Alice Lane, Albuquerque, NM 87110 for his ballot on behalf of *Albuquerque ROS BBS*.

**Rob R. MacGregor**, 4208 Montreal Ave., Prince Georgia, VA 23875 for his ballot for *Blue Ridge Express BBS*.

#### U.S. ROBOTICS MODEM

**U**.S. Robotics was apparently unable to attend the ceremony and our own **Gary Funk** drew two names for receipt of the U.S. Robotics Courier Dual Standard modems.

**Quentin Dodd**, 53572 Kershner Lane, Elkhart, IN 46514 for his ballot on behalf of *After Five BBS*.

**Mark A. Stevens**, 12 Walker Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701 for his ballot on behalf of *Executive Network BBS*.

Finally, in a surprise presentation, **Jim Harner** of *Mustang Software, Inc.*, presented **Jack Rickard** (that's me) with a *Golden Target Award*, a truly lovely brass bulls-eye plaque, apparently for standing in the middle and allowing everyone to take three shots for a dollar. Just doing my job ma'am.

#### JACK & PHIL BARBECUE

**B**y Saturday afternoon all hands seemed to be deep into "information overload" and a subset of 500 attendees retired to the *Jack and Phil Barbecue* at *Rotten Log Hollow*. This was a particularly strange event for a number of reasons. It was nearly a fifteen minute bus ride up the mountain and away from the main frenzy of action. It was an optional event at \$50 per head. And no one knew precisely why they would want to go to such a thing in the first place. But about 500 signed up.



After considerable rain during the week, the weather was a concern. But on cue, the skies opened up beautifully around 5:00 PM Saturday. And on arrival the magic became clear. An open area with shelters and picnic tables, there was in fact pretty good grilled steaks and chicken, hot buttered corn, salad, beans, biscuits, and the trimmings waiting in a western style outdoor cookout.

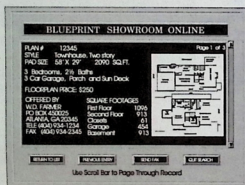
But that wasn't what made it work. The Colorado sunset provided a perfect backdrop for dinner, but the real magic was a kind of backoff on info-frenzy. An outcrop provided a dramatic view of the

valley below, and as the sun set, a bonfire was lit and a country band played tunes in the background. The moon came out on one of those perfect Colorado high-mountain evenings. The reaction was a kind of group relaxation response. After three days (four for some early arrivals) of intense business card swapping and deal cutting, about 500 attendees danced, soaked up the view, or sat around the campfire talking about decidedly non-technical subjects and just plain winding down. Almost no one missed the point. By the time the last buses returned to the Broadmoor at 1:00 AM, an informal survey indicated four software

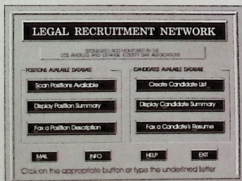
companies, five major bulletin boards, and two hardware manufacturers were babbling seriously about relocating their entire operations to Colorado. And a dozen attendees from Europe had formed a cabal to launch **TWO BBSCON** in Europe. (TWO BBSCON, PO Box 206, FL-9486 Schaanwald, Liechtenstein, Europe, 41-75-3736677 voice; 41-75-3736660 fax; 41-75-3736680 BBS; twobbs@osis.li Internet)

Bottom line - a good time was had by all. Next year - **Atlanta**.

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Online Service Features  
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The Business BBS is a premiere online systems service bureau. We design, build, operate and maintain custom online services on our equipment, at our facility. Your application can be built, tested, and online in days. Ease of use is assured, even for inexperienced users.

We tailor menus, databases, and other online service features to meet your specific business needs. Our applications tool kit includes the industry's most expansive feature set and a variety of database engines. A crisp, clean, mouse driven, button activated optional business Graphical User Interface is available.

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# RIP - a new standard!

## Graphics on a BBS?

QmodemPro has it ... NOW!



Every major BBS developer has announced support for the new Remote Imaging Protocol (affectionately known in the BBS community as RIPscrip).



It shouldn't surprise you that QmodemPro is the first full-featured communications package out of the gate with RIPscrip. QmodemPro didn't get the reputation of being the BBS caller's best friend by taking months or years to implement new features.

RIPscrip offers presentation-quality graphics, similar to those found on graphics-based online services such as Prodigy and America Online. Menu selections are just a mouse-click away.

Mustang Software, Inc. proudly offers this new standard for a fully graphical BBS-terminal interface ...

**WITHOUT** making you give up the quality and ease of use you've come to expect from your favorite communication program, QmodemPro.

### Features!

Here's what QmodemPro 1.5 offers you ...

- A standard graphical interface which works on any system supporting RIP graphics.
- Integrated offline mail on any QWK-compatible BBS, CompuServe E-Mail and MCI Mail. Built-in 120,000 word spell checker, even using your favorite word processor or text editor.
- Powerful script language with QuickLearn.
- Twelve popular transfer protocols including Zmodem, CIS B+ and Kermit.
- Full network support via Interrupt 14, NACS, NASI, ArtCom and DigiBoard.
- Built-in support for sendFAX, high speed modems, and more.
- Awesome 4095-entry Phonebook allows multiple phone numbers per BBS, attached notes, group dialing, automatic tagging and dialing entries with outgoing mail, and powerful sort options.

### What are you waiting for?

If you're already a registered QmodemPro customer, download your free QmodemPro version 1.5 upgrade and experience RIP graphics today.

If you haven't tried QmodemPro, you haven't experienced the best in modem telecommunications today. Find out why QmodemPro is "The BBS Caller's Best Friend." QmodemPro is available through Software, Etc., Walden Software, CompUSA, and other fine software resellers, or directly from Mustang Software.

**There's no need to wait any longer.**  
Call 800-999-9619 to find out how you can start using the ultimate in telecommunications software.

Mustang Software, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2264 Bakersfield, CA 93303  
(805) 395-0223 Fax (805) 395-0713  
BBS (805) 395-0650



# Searchlight 3.0

## Easier to Use

Your users are the key to your bulletin board's success. Make things easy on them, and they'll be back for more. Confuse them with a poor user interface, and they'll look elsewhere.

At Searchlight, we specialize in creating friendly, highly usable interfaces that you and your callers will love. Back in 1987 we were the first product to offer full screen text editing and we're still the only one that gives you a complete full screen interface. Instead of clunky text prompts, you'll find comfortable menu bars, input boxes, full cursor control, and even online mouse support.

## RIP Graphics

In 1993, Searchlight is pioneering online graphics technology. Our programmers helped design the new non-proprietary RIP graphics protocol that is quickly becoming a BBS industry standard, and Searchlight 3.0 is the first BBS product with internal RIP support. With RIP, you can design startling high resolution graphics interfaces like the ones shown here, complete with pictures, icons, fonts, mouse buttons, and more. You can even add graphics to messages! RIP offers an exciting new way to look at BBSing, and Searchlight 3.0 has it right now.

## Powerful Features

At Searchlight, we think messages, conferences, files and nodes should be limited only by system resources, not arbitrary numbers. You shouldn't need an external "doorway" program just to run remote DOS shells. In fact, all of your maintenance programs and utilities should operate from a remote location as easily as they do locally — and they should be complete so you don't have to spend hundreds more for add-ons.

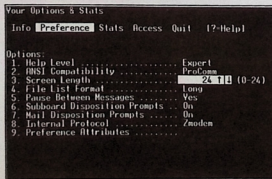
Running a multiuser system? Too bad all BBS software doesn't include Intelligent DigiBoard™ support at no extra cost so you can run up to 10 lines on a single PC with DESQview and still use all your favorite DOS-based Doors. We support LANs, Windows and OS/2, too.



With Searchlight 3.0 and RIP, your BBS can have amazing graphics without giving up DOS or using a proprietary terminal package. This entire login screen is just 2,746 bytes!



Combine Searchlight's famous menu-building features with RIP graphics to produce elegant, mousable menus. Using your BBS has never been easier.



Even in plain text mode, Searchlight's menu bars and input boxes give you full-screen functionality with virtually any ANSI/vt100 terminal.

If you don't see it listed here, it's probably because we ran out of room:

- Full-screen text editor with quoting
- DigiBoard & FOSSIL support included in every version
- Internal Zmodem protocol
- QWK, Fidonet & UTI support
- Totally configurable menu editor
- CD-ROM support
- DOOR.SYS, PCBOARD.SYS, and DORINFO.DEF support
- Relational links to user file from mail and conferences
- Full maintenance while system is taking calls, even from remote
- One-keystroke file tagging
- Over 16 million security profiles
- Supports virus-checking software
- Upload directly to message editor
- Up to 15 external protocols
- True private mailboxes for all users
- Fidonet private netmail with nodelist support, mail routing and more
- Requires just 250K RAM per node
- ANSI & RIP auto-detect
- Forward, kill, or download entire message threads with one command
- First upgrade free

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| \$ 99 | single line |
| \$179 | 1-3 lines   |
| \$299 | 1-10 lines  |
| \$399 | unlimited   |



**SEARCHLIGHT**  
1-800-780-LITE

Visa/MC/AmEx/Discover  
or request information  
and test drive disk

516-751-2966 • BBS 516-689-2566  
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# Global Access

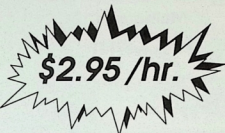
1206 Kenilworth Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204 - P.O. Box 31474, Charlotte, NC 28231 - Phone 704/334-DATA - FAX 704/334-6880

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**HoloUUCP** connects your BBS to Internet E-Mail and USENET News. With Internet E-mail you can exchange mail with people all over the world. Internet E-Mail reaches over 11 million mailboxes, including major commercial services like CompuServe and America Online.

**HoloUUCP** lets you set up your BBS system to automatically exchange mail whenever you want. Mail sent to sites directly connected to the Internet takes only minutes.

**HoloUUCP** also links your BBS to USENET News. USENET News is used by people all over the world to discuss over 4,000 topics. Topics range from arts & sciences to recreation & politics and more. **HoloNet** can help you expand your BBS membership by giving your users access to the news conferences they want. Over 40MB of new articles are available daily.

**HoloDNS** is an option you can have with **HoloUUCP**. **HoloDNS** provides a custom Internet address for your BBS. For example, your members would have an address like "first.last@your-BBS.com". The one time setup fee for **HoloDNS** is \$25.00.

**HoloUUCP** service is quick and easy to set up. To take advantage of **HoloUUCP** you'll need a UUCP gateway. The one time setup fee for a **HoloUUCP** account is \$50.00 and usage is billed at regular **HoloNet** rates, which are as low as \$6.00 per month.

For more information on **HoloUUCP**, please call us at 510-704-0160.



**HoloUUCP** is compatible with:  
 FirstClass • Major BBS  
 PC Board • Wildcat! •  
 Waffle

CompuServe, America Online, First Class, Major BBS, PC Board and Waffle are trademarks of their respective owners.



Information Access Technologies, Inc.  
 46 Shattuck Square Suite 11  
 Berkeley, CA 94704-1152

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# IF YOU HAD THREE WISHES,

Take a close look and you'll see why so many sysops are switching to the Synchronet Multinode Bulletin Board System. For one, message networking is second nature for Synchronet. Not only does Synchronet support FidoNet, QWK, and PostLink (RIME) message networks, but network considerations are integrated into every aspect of the BBS. Synchronet's hierarchical message and file areas are the perfect organizational solution for today's multi-network message and CD-ROM file areas. Synchronet has many built-in features that other packages either don't offer or require an add-on, such as multichannel and private key by key chat, offline reader features, and multiuser CD-ROM support. First time operators appreciate Synchronet's elegant menu driven configuration, while experienced sysops revel in its wealth of options and flexibility. The list goes on and on. But don't take our word for it, check out the competition first. With Synchronet, you won't need three wishes.

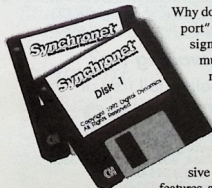


## Feature and Price Comparison for an 8 node BBS on a single 486 PC

|                                | Synchronet   | Wildcat!IM    | PCBoard/M     | MajorBBS      | TBBS          |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Node license                   | \$199        | \$799         | \$440         | \$508         | \$895         |
| Multitasker                    | \$200        | \$200         | \$200         | Yes           | Yes           |
| 8 port I/O                     | \$300        | \$800         | \$995         | \$575         | \$500         |
| Multinode chat                 | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes           |
| Multichannel chat              | Yes          | Extra         | No            | Yes           | Yes           |
| Private key by key chat        | Yes          | No            | No            | Yes           | Yes           |
| Offline reader support         | Yes          | Yes           | Extra         | \$199         | \$99          |
| QWK networking                 | Yes          | Yes           | Extra         | No            | Yes           |
| FidoNet import/export          | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes           |
| Send/receive NetMail           | Yes          | Yes           | No            | No            | Yes           |
| PostLink (RIME) support        | Yes          | Extra         | Yes           | Extra         | No            |
| RIPscrip GUI support           | Yes          | No            | No            | Extra         | No            |
| Novell/DOS LAN support         | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | Yes           | No            |
| 976/900 billing support        | Yes          | No            | No            | Extra         | Extra         |
| Real-time node activity alerts | Yes          | No            | No            | Yes           | Yes           |
| Enhanced CD-ROM support        | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | Extra         | Extra         |
| Multiuser SDK                  | Yes          | No            | Extra         | Extra         | Extra         |
| Incoming FAX support           | Yes          | No            | No            | No            | No            |
| Chat between doors             | Yes          | No            | No            | Yes           | No            |
| Bidirectional file transfers   | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | No            | No            |
| Multiple user command sets     | Yes          | No            | No            | No            | No            |
| Supports DOS doors             | 6 types      | 1 type        | 3 types       | No            | No            |
| Hierarchical msg & file areas  | Yes          | No            | No            | No            | No            |
| External transfer protocols    | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | No            | No            |
| <b>Total price</b>             | <b>\$699</b> | <b>\$1799</b> | <b>\$1635</b> | <b>\$1282</b> | <b>\$1494</b> |

Prices do not include CPU or modems. Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/93, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Commercial or Shareware Tom/Scan utilities are required for some message network technologies.

## YOU COULD TOSS THE OTHER TWO.



Why doesn't Synchronet have a special "multiport" version? Because Synchronet was designed from the ground up as a high-speed multinode BBS capable of running up to 10 nodes on a single 486. It's advanced interrupt driven output design combined with DESQview optimizations maximize CPU utilization, allowing Synchronet to out perform other systems running special "multiport" versions on expensive coprocessed I/O cards. For performance, features, and value, nobody beats Synchronet.

## Synchronet BBS

Multinode Bulletin Board System Software

### Undeniable Value

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| 2 Node License   | \$ 99  |
| 4 Node License   | \$ 149 |
| 16 Node License  | \$ 199 |
| 250 Node License | \$ 399 |
| Multiuser SDK    | FREE   |

Node license upgrades are available for the difference plus 10%. Minor revision upgrades can be downloaded free of charge.

## Digital Dynamics

P.O. Box 501 Yorba Linda, CA 92686  
(714) 529-6328 voice (714) 529-9721 FAX

### Download the Free demo version:

(714) 529-9525 2400bps (714) 529-5313 9600+bps v.32  
(714) 529-9721 9600+bps ZyXel (714) 529-9547 9600+bps HST

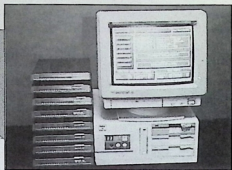
October 1993 - Boardwatch 41



# WILDCAT! IM — The intelligent alternative.

## Is it really this easy?

THE ANSWER IS YES!



### You can have it all with WILDCAT! IM

Why give up speed, power and flexibility just to run a multi-user BBS? Why pay high add-on prices for the kind of features you have a right to expect in a professional BBS program? Why pay thousands extra for software only a programmer can understand?

WILDCAT! IM easily handles up to eight high speed modem lines on a 486 PC using an intelligent Digiboard card, with no noticeable slowdown in performance. Add one or more eight-line workstations to your LAN, and you have a fully network-compatible multi-user BBS with local logins, without having to spend, spend, and spend again.

### Yes, We Do Doors

With WILDCAT! IM, you're not tied to proprietary modules that cost a lot but might not fit your needs. You're not locked in to buying source code or special compilers and libraries if you want to use serious business applications instead of space monster games. And you're not stuck with kludges that require you to have additional PCs networked to your BBS, just to run doors and DOS applications.

That's because WILDCAT! IM lets you run off-the-shelf applications as ordinary menu selections. We even give you a customized version of DOORWAY — to add Digiboard compatible COM/I/O routines to your favorite DOS applications.

### Yes, We Do E-Mail

Whether you need local or wide-area messaging, whether you want shared public conference mail or point-to-point E-Mail, WILDCAT! IM can help you do it. Whether you need a simple QWK-compatible network, or our optional MHS gateway, WILDCAT! IM helps you move the mail.

### Yes, We Do LAN Sessions

You don't have to pay hundreds extra just for add-ons to let your LAN users log into the BBS. WILDCAT! IM was designed for LAN compatibility from the start. It's this simple: install WILDCAT! IM on any network drive. Then run WILDCAT! BBS from the DOS prompt at any workstation on the network. Full functionality, including file uploads and downloads across the LAN. Up to 250 simultaneous sessions in any combination of local LAN logins and modem connections. Why do it any other way?

### Yes, We Do RIP

RIP (Remote Imaging Protocol) graphics come standard with WILDCAT! IM. Users can select menu commands with the mouse, and see graphics comparable to or better than those found on Prodigy or America Online. And we don't make your users give up their favorite professional communications software, either. RIP graphics are fully supported by QmodemPro.

### Yes, We Do CD-ROM

Of all the new computer hardware developments of the last decade, none have had more impact on the BBS world than CD-ROM technology. CD-ROMs are a perfect way to add huge numbers of files to your BBS. Instead of making you use third-party doors or expensive add-on modules to support a CD-ROM, WILDCAT! IM treats it just like another hard drive, showing the CD-ROM files as part of your regular file download areas.

## What are you waiting for?

Got a question? Call us toll free at

# 800-999-9619



Mustang Software, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2264, Bakersfield, CA 93303  
(805) 395-0223  
Fax (805) 395-0713  
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Redefining Telecommunications In '93

# "Who is ASR ?"

## Glad You Asked...

Advanced Systems Research, authors and distributes a complete line of applications specifically designed to enable you to exploit all the possibilities of e-Soft's powerful TBBS BBS software, we are pleased to offer full support for all the software we distribute.

## And...

- **We are an authorized eSoft Distributor**
- **We offer our own Software**
- **We offer BBS setup for Business Applications**
- **We offer an ASR "800 Tech. Support number"**

## The Worlds Largest 3rd Party BBS Developer!

All ASR software is designed to enhance TBBS/TDBS systems by bringing the most advanced technical sophistication available to eSoft product line and developing revolutionary applications for TBBS systems. Stop by and see us at booths 7,8, and 9 at ONE BBSCON '93

Advanced Systems Research has its origins from VSAT satellite data systems research. This background has brought together the very talented staff that makes up ASR and it's associate members. This also gives the ASR team experiences and ideas not common to BBS software development

## Featuring...

### SYSMON

At \$79.00 SYSMON is a realtime remote control system designed to look and work just like the TBBS 2.2 console. SYSMON can be configured to handle up to 65 lines including the console. SYSMON can also be used by your regular callers as a system overview and alarm watch system. Many features including complete system usage logging, TDBS application launcher and a duplicate user logging and drop. Version 4.1 now supports EGA43 line mode to display all 65 lines on screen at once.

FOR TDBS 1.2 ONLY...NOW WITH DROP CARRIER DETECT

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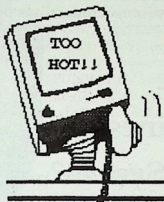
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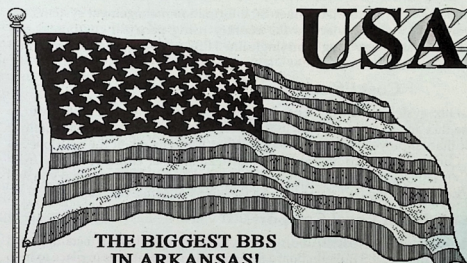
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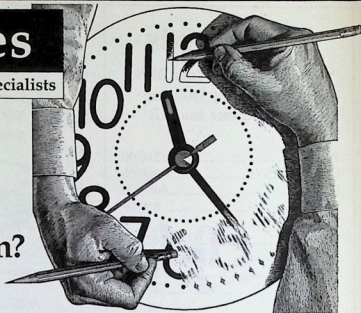




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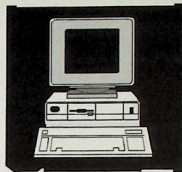
We have been building a matrix of associates around the world with the capability of installing and maintaining private and commercial TBBS/TDBS Bulletin Board Systems and that matrix is in place to help you in any way we can. If you would like someone to visit your site to do a full needs assessment or to help you with an existing TBBS/TDBS installation we will be happy to place you in contact with one of our associates nearby. And as all our associates work together as a team you can take advantage of their many years of accumulated experience with TBBS systems.

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### QuickSearch

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### SystemMaster

SystemMaster allows COMPLETE and easy control of any TBBS/TDBS system. It features the ability to store and launch any TBBS command from a database of individual commands or from Program Groups which allow sequential execution of specific commands that YOU group together. You can even sort the commands or time their execution speed. It has Context sensitive help which automatically pops-up in a window whenever you add or edit a TBBS command, it provides a complete suite of easy to use SYSOM and DOS commands and facilities far beyond what you've ever seen before in a TBBS/TDBS, it provides a COMPLETE TDBS control area which allows you to create, modify, pack, zap, search and edit any TDBS database and index file, and much much more!

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| ST3243A HH  | 213MB | 15MS  | IDE  | \$260   |
| ST3290A HH  | 260MB | 15MS  | IDE  | \$290   |
| ST3550A HH  | 452MB | 12MS  | IDE  | \$580   |
| ST4766N FH  | 660MB | 15MS  | SCSI | \$910   |
| ST41200N HH | 1.2GB | 10MS  | SCSI | \$1,200 |
| ST42100N FH | 2.1GB | 14MS  | SCSI | \$1,700 |
| ST43400N FH | 3.0GB | 10MS  | SCSI | \$2,750 |

## Maxtor

| Model      | Size  | Speed | Type | Price   |
|------------|-------|-------|------|---------|
| 7131A HH   | 130MB | 15MS  | IDE  | \$210   |
| 7213A HH   | 213MB | 15MS  | IDE  | \$260   |
| 7213S HH   | 213MB | 15MS  | SCSI | \$290   |
| 7245A HH   | 245MB | 15MS  | IDE  | \$270   |
| 7345A HH   | 345MB | 14MS  | IDE  | \$329   |
| LXT535A HH | 535MB | 13MS  | IDE  | \$880   |
| P012S FH   | 1.0GB | 13MS  | SCSI | \$1,100 |
| 1240S HH   | 1.2GB | 8MS   | SCSI | \$1,485 |
| P117 FH    | 1.5GB | 13MS  | SCSI | \$1,600 |

## CD Rom Drives

| Model           | Speed | Price |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Toshiba XM-3401 |       |       |
| Internal        | 200MS | \$540 |
| External        | 200MS | \$630 |
| Teac CD-50      |       |       |
| Internal        | 270MS | \$450 |
| External        | 270MS | \$530 |
| Mitsumi         |       |       |
| Internal        | 350MS | \$189 |

## Controllers

| Model                    | Price |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Silicon Valley           | \$47  |
| 16bit IDE H/F w/BIOS     |       |
| Always Technology        |       |
| IN2000 16bit SCSI w/BIOS | \$187 |
| Adaptec                  |       |
| Bus Master SCSI 16bit    | \$305 |

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
| Model                      | Price   |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Colorado Memory Systems    |         |
| Jumbo 120MB Internal       | \$155   |
| Jumbo 250MB External       | \$189   |
| Exabyte                    |         |
| DAT Drive 2.5GB            | \$1,100 |
| Tapes (Preformatted)       |         |
| 120MB tape for DJ-10       | \$24    |
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## ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

### FEDS OPENING UP FOR ELECTRONIC PUBLIC ACCESS

By Jim Warren

Dated July 2, 1993, the federal Office of Management and Budget issued *major* new policies assuring public access to computerized public records, and public federal records in all forms. Entitled, "**Federal Information Resources Management (Circular A-130), Revision,**" this 19-page document finally opens the door for equitable modern public access to government data.

*It sets public-access policy at a crucial moment in history, as we race towards the 21st Century. It opens up electronic citizen-access to the government in ways they will probably never be able to retract — thanks to our potent networked thinkertoys.*

#### GOOD GOVERNMENT POLICY

Under "*Basic Considerations and Assumptions,*" Circular A-130 astutely declares, "Because the public disclosure of government information is essential to the operation of a democracy, management of Federal information resources should protect the public's right of access to government information."

Noting that government is the single largest producer, collector, consumer and distributor of information in the nation, A-130 states, "Government information ... provides the public with knowledge of the government, society, and economy — past, present, and future. It is a means to ensure the accountability of government ..."

#### PRIVATE AND NETWORKED DISTRIBUTION

Supporting non-profit and for-profit private-sector public-data distribution, A-130 states, "The nation can benefit from government information disseminated both by Federal agencies and by diverse nonfederal parties, including State and local government agencies, educational and other not-for-profit institutions, and for-profit organizations."

It further notes, "The availability of government information in diverse

media, including electronic formats, permits the public greater flexibility in using the information."

Recognizing that the preceding are lofty statements of principle, Section 8 of the circular mandates explicit policy for federal agencies: "Agencies shall use electronic media and formats, including public networks, as appropriate and within budgetary constraints, in order to make government information more easily accessible and useful to the public," and notes, "Electronic media or formats are practical and cost effective ways to provide public access ..."

#### ABOUT PEDDLING PUBLIC DATA

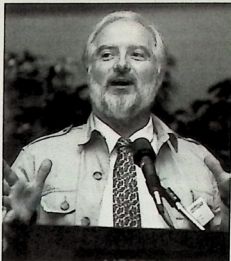
One of the most contentious issues surrounding computerized public records is whether government agencies should profit from peddling the public's computerized data to individual and organizational members of the public — profiteering they would not think of doing with the same data in printed form. (Since government almost *always* spends every penny it can get its hands on, "profit" — in this case — is defined as income exceeding the incremental cost of producing *copies* of those public records.)

Demanding profit-generating fees as prerequisite to copies of public records creates a caste system in which those who can afford the fees get First Class access to their government, and the poor peons who can't afford for-profit agency services have only Second Class access to their government.

Under the section appropriately entitled, "Avoiding Improperly Restrictive Practices," A-130 unequivocally instructs federal agencies regarding their sale of public information:

"(b) Avoid establishing restrictions, including the charging of fees or royalties, on the reuse, resale, or re-dissemination of Federal information dissemination products by the public; and

"(c) Set user charges for information



Jim Warren

dissemination products at a level sufficient to recover the cost of dissemination but no higher. They shall exclude from calculation of the charges costs associated with original collection and processing of the information."

The Federal Government has finally decided it is not in the business of profiteering by selling the public's information to the public, regardless of the financial temptation to do so.

#### ABOUT DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS

Two other widespread access problems regarding computerized public records include whether agencies will:

1. Grant equal access to all, or will channel public data through one or a few exclusive for-profit private contractors — who then sell it for everything the market would bear; and,
2. Grant equally *timely* access to all, or give "special" groups early access while delaying access for all others.

Fortunately for the nation, our fellow techno-yuppies in the new administration have mandated a clear policy of equal access: "Agencies shall ... avoid establishing, or permitting others to establish on their behalf, exclusive, restricted, or other distribution arrangements that interfere with the availability of [agency data] on a timely and equitable basis."



Circular A-130 can be our powerful tool in opening up and assuring access to public records in the hands of federal agencies. Use it!

**Note:** A-130 applies only to agencies in the Executive Branch of the federal government. We need to insure equally-strong policies for timely, equitable access to the Legislative and Judicial Branches — Congress and the Courts. The federal court system seems to be strongly supporting free online public access. Congress is a different matter.

The Library of Congress Information System (LOCIS) and the *Congressional Record* — which Members of Congress routinely and systematically edit and modify almost without restriction, before it becomes official — became publicly accessible across the Internet in mid-year, without charge, but there is much more to do.

For example, the voluminous, periodic *Federal Register* is available online, but only through a private vendor at significant cost — at least, "significant" for mere citizens. It is also available on magtape from the Government Printing Office for the large cost that it takes to generate and distribute the tapes throughout the year.

And then there's a really *hot* mound of public information that would be invaluable to improving open, equitable governance: Let's begin pushing for online access to the already-public campaign-contribution reports and candidates' financial-disclosure statements that are filed with the Federal Elections Commission — and their counterpart reports filed for state and local campaigns in most states (e.g., with the Fair Political Practices Commission in California).

#### For a Copy of A-130

OMB Circular A-130 is available via Internet anonymous FTP (File Transfer Protocol) from [nis.nsf.net](mailto:nis.nsf.net), named `/omb/omb.a130.rev2` (do not use any capital letters).

If you only have Internet email access, send a message to [nis-info@nis.nsf.net](mailto:nis-info@nis.nsf.net) with no subject and "send omb.a130.rev2" as the first line in the body of the message.

For readers still isolated from the global Internet, request a copy by snail-mail or quaint voice-phone from Peter N. Weiss, Information Policy Branch, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Room 3235, New Executive Office Building, Washington DC 20503; (202)395-

#### 4814. GUIDE YOUR LOCAL AGENCIES

You might copy the key excerpts from A-130 to your elected representatives in your state, county [parish], town and local special-districts, along with your advocacy of public availability of copies of the public's data for no more than the incremental direct cost of copying.

We need to vigorously counteract widespread moves by funds-hungry local and state agencies seeking to profitably peddle *our* public data to us.

[Jim Warren (345 Swett Rd., Woodside CA 94062; (415)851-7075; [Internet/jwarren@well.sf.ca.us](mailto:Internet/jwarren@well.sf.ca.us)) is a columnist, lecturer and activist. He began working as a minicomputer programmer in 1968, and has worked in personal computing since before the phrase was invented. He founded *InfoWorld*, the Computers, Freedom & Privacy conferences, was founding Editor of *Dr. Dobb's Journal*, founding host of PBS television's "Computer Chronicles" and is a Board member at Autodesk, Inc. He holds three graduate degrees and has taught computing at Stanford, San Jose State and San Francisco State. - Editor]

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## SCHOOLS ONLINE

### CORE OFFERS INTERNET GUIDE

By Bill Gram-Reefer

**T**he California Online Resources for Education (CORE), in association with the California Technology Project (CPT), has some wonderful news for educators that need help in getting onto the Internet. Beginning in September, a Graphical User Interface Designed for Education (GUIDE) will be available to help educators and others get wired. The GUIDE is a cross platform program developed by the CPT consortium that offers access to the Internet, electronic mail, teleconferencing, and data resources.

With integrated SLIP support, the package can also negotiate connections with Ethernet and LocalTalk for locally-based bulletin board systems.

Available in both MS-Windows and Macintosh versions, delivered in a shrink-wrap format, the GUIDE comes complete with all required drivers and software that includes Adobe Acrobat reader with every copy. The simple installation tools minimize setup. The GUIDE is being marketed at an educational cost of \$40 annually. This includes dial-up connectivity, a server account through CORE, and full support. It is available for quantity purchases outside of California on a software-only basis at \$1,500 per block of 100 users.

CPT is a cooperative venture of the California State University System and the California Department of Education. The GUIDE was developed by these groups in association with the University of Minnesota, and through contracts with Microsoft



Consulting Services and Adobe. Established in 1989 to provide leadership and support network technology adoption and expansion grants, the CTB's goals are to link and coordinate educational resources in California, identify needs for regional

support, aid in planning, implementation, and evaluation of educational technology programs, spread information, and establish regional consortia. CPT works closely with groups involved in curricula development, the U.C. university system, K-12 schools, model schools, as well as governmental and professional organizations.

As part of its information dissemination program, CPT operates CORE, an electronic information service provided to K-12 educators and students, and state university faculty and student teachers throughout California. CORE offers a variety of services to its users including: electronic mail with net gateways to AppleLink and CompuServe, NetNews Groups focusing on educational issues, and online databases on subjects including video/software evaluations and NASA SpaceLink.

The GUIDE consists of four main modules (authentication, e-mail, conferencing, and information) presented as a single application, plus Adobe Acrobat reader. With a multi-user design, the GUIDE permits sharing of a single Mac or PC by a number of users. Each user's preferences, mail, and personal folders are stored sepa-

ately, and can only be accessed when the user has been authenticated. Offline use for creation and reading of mail can be employed to minimize connect-time. An Address Book, background file transfers, and NewsFlash system-wide broadcast messages are some other features.

Hardware system requirements call for either a System 7 or later Macintosh with at least 4-Mb of RAM, at least 2-Mb of hard disk space, a V.32 or better modem, and either an Ethernet or LocalTalk connection. IBM and compatible PCs must use Windows 3.0 or later running either a 386 or 486 processor with 4-Mb RAM, 2-Mb hard disk space, and mouse.

The GUIDE supports POP3 (for receiving mail), SMTP (for sending mail), NNTP (for NetNews), Gopher (for information access), Telnet (remote logins), CSO/PH (phone directory support). All of these protocols follow Internet standards that ensure compatibility. Users can use the toll-free CORE network dial-up and central services while also offering their own local server for access. These servers are based on a UNIX platform running standard TCP/IP. The GUIDE was designed by Mark

Resmer and Keith Vogt. Additional components were provided by Apple Computer, Peter Speck, NCSA, QPC Software, and Hyde Park Software. The California Technology Project, P.O. Box 3842 Seal Beach, CA 90740; (800) 272-8743 (voice).

## ATTENTION EDUCATORS

The focus of this column is to report on BBS and network applications at work in schools from K-12 through graduate-level universities. Help educators and students get wired! Let us know how your educational institution is putting BBS technology and networks into action. Please let us know about specific, innovative applications you use, or your school's involvement in corporately-sponsored programs. I'll report on the most interesting resources, issues and programs you send to: SCHOOLS ONLINE c/o 2069 Highland Drive, Concord, CA 94520.

[Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of **WORLDVIEW**, specializing in connectivity and communications. E-mail Bill at: [wk05156@worldlink.com](mailto:wk05156@worldlink.com)]

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## SOFTWARE NOTES

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### THE QUEST FOR SHAREWARE

by Paul Sedillo  
[paul.sedillo@boardwatch.com](mailto:paul.sedillo@boardwatch.com)

OK I'll admit it, I am and always will be a Shareware Junkie. You've been there, needing that fix, late at night while every sane person is sleeping, searching that vast file section of your favorite BBS. At each passing screen your sense of reality fades a little further, yet you push on. Then suddenly, just when you thought that you could bear it no longer, it appears - that one program that will end your suffering and satisfy your need. So you download it only to find it just wasn't quite what you where looking for. The search continues for the diamond in the rough. This month, we found a few you should know about.

#### ARCHIVER FOR WINDOWS VER. 2.1

Have you ever downloaded a new file while in Windows, and wished that you didn't have to exit Windows to unpack it? Archiver for Windows ver. 2.1 is by far the most functional archiving shell program for Windows we've found. Archiver is a Windows shell that works with a wide variety of existing DOS archiving and virus scanning programs including PKZIP, ARC, LHA, ARCE, ARJ, SCAN, VIREX. If you have ZIPEXE, for example, you can compress a file to a self-extracting file. Also offered is the ability to scan a file during uncompression for viruses. To perform any compression, uncompression, ZIPEXE, or virus scan, you must have one or more of the above listed programs on your machine. Installation is simple. You can either

install from a disk or off the hard drive. When you run the program for the first time, you are asked to configure the program by identifying the compression/extraction files, virus programs, the interface colors, and also the document viewer. The document viewer is a handy option, which allows you the ability to extract a text based file to Windows Notepad and read its contents. After you have completed the configuration process, you are ready to roll.

The main menu offers a variety of options. You can compress/uncompress, view and print file contents, review archive information, convert file formats (an excellent option!), create a self-extracting archive, add archive comments, delete files within an archive, test an archive for file integrity, and freshen the archive. Also offered from within Archiver, is



the ability to use **Launch Pad** to execute a program. This option is useful for running your favorite editor, or any other program that you may need while in Archiver. Launch Pad also offers the option of creating a new button that is added to your main menu, and linked to your program of choice. So now instead of accessing Launch Pad, you can run your program by depressing the new button added to the main menu. I thought Launch Pad was an excellent program feature.

Where Archiver shines is the simplicity with which it handles file extraction and compression. You have total control over how the archiving package treats the archived file. All of your favorite "switches" are available to be selected before you extract or compress a file. For example, you could tell Archiver to extract a file with a **-d** option (PKZIP switch that creates directories upon extraction). Archiver also allows you to select the source drive and directory, and the target drive and directory. This is great for using a temporary directory to extract and compress files into.

ARCHIVER for Windows is a must have for anyone who utilizes archiving programs, and would like to have this ability in Windows. Widely available online as **ARCWIN21.ZIP**

## BIGTEXT ver. 1.6

Here is a program I can't believe I ever lived without. **BigText** is a text compiler that can turn an ordinary text file into a self-displaying executable file. This is a great program for creating self-displaying manuals, file listings for BBS's, catalogues, or any other reference type material.

What makes **BigText** stand out is the ability to create large stand alone .EXE files. With the average text compiler, you are limited to creating a .COM file which can only store a limited amount of information. This can be frustrating if you have a large BBS file listing that you are trying to compile.

Once you have selected the text that you wish to compile, you can insert a user defined menu into your document. The menu information placed here is compiled with the text and used as a front end for your document. Each menu item is linked with a tilde to mark each section of the

document. This allows the viewer to immediately go to that section from the main menu. When you compile the text, the code used to define the menu is embedded into the document.

Inside the text compiler you define the viewer color, print permissions (this allows the users to print or create a .TXT file), set the indent space from the left, and test run the new .EXE file. I created a **TEST.TXT** file that was 200K in size, after compiling it increased to 260K. This size increase is small price to pay for the features gained.

The text viewer that is created has several internal options. If you created a menu, it will appear in the viewer. Another feature is fast "find", which allows you to find and go to any portion of the text. If you selected "yes" for print permission, then this option is also offered from within the viewer.

An interesting side note to this program, is the fact that the author lives in St. Lucia, Australia. It's great to see Shareware coming from down under, G'Day Mate! Widely available as **BIGTXT16.ZIP**

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### PHOTO ARCHIVING OR "LOST AND FOUND"

By Jim Thompson  
Western News Service

Collecting electronic images is a little like eating potato chips — you're never satisfied with just one. Once you start working with images, you will soon find that you never have enough. To make it worse, the more images you have, the longer it takes to find the one you want.

To make it more complex, a full screen, 24-bit true color image can require more disk storage space than a hundred pages of text.

Of course, you could erase all the old images to make room for the new ones, but that's not so easy. It's a bit like tearing up the old snap-shot of you with the lamp shade on your head at the last big party. You hate it and you know that it will be the source of an unending string of jokes when the kids discover it years from now, but, somehow, you just can't bring yourself to put it through the shredder.

Take heart — there is hope for all us pack rats. Image archiving programs not only allow you to store your images in a compressed format, but also will help you find just the image you want when you want it.

There are a number of programs available for archiving images, but two stand out. Although they are at opposite ends of the cost scale, each performs well within its design parameters.

#### NEXIS PHOTOVIEW

Although it carries the NEXIS moniker, PhotoView was actually developed by the Lewiston Tribune in Lewiston, Idaho and is distributed by Mead Data Central in Dayton, Ohio. According to Glenn Cruickshank, manager of Tribune Solutions, the program is the result of about six years of research and development.

"We needed a way to keep track of our ever-growing photos and stories. At the time, there was nothing that

would do the trick, so we began developing a program that would fill the unique needs of a daily newspaper. PhotoView was the result. Combined with NewsViews, a text retrieval database, it allows us to archive everything that is in the newspaper," says Cruickshank.

At a cost of \$4,995 for a single station version and \$7,975 for a 20 station network version, this is definitely not in everyone's price range. It is a professional tool designed specifically with large newspapers in mind. PhotoView allows for the storage, indexing, and retrieval of color and black and white images from electronic picture desks, like the Associated Press Leaf desk or the Crosfield system, or from a PC or Macintosh.

Although designed for a professional environment, PhotoView is extremely easy to use. As Cruickshank puts it, "It is so easy, it can be used by a three-year-old child, or even a reporter!"

The program actually consists of two programs or parts — the library management portion which runs under Windows and the search program which runs under DOS.

The library program allows photo librarians to import photos and prepare "cutlines" (basically, this is a description of the photo which may include a brief description, caption, and source).

When importing a photo, the librarian, using the File Program Manager, can include such material as the origin of the image (Associated Press, Reuters, etc.), the desk (news, features, sports, etc.) it is destined for, keywords and a caption.

PhotoView accepts image files in ANPA-IPTC, TIFF (PC or Macintosh format), or JPEG. You can also scan images in directly using a flatbed scanner or a slide scanner, connect directly to the GPIB port on an AP Leaf Desk or transfer files via a network.

Two versions of the images are stored within the program — a thumbnail and a high resolution file. The files are stored in JPEG format with a user-selectable compression ratio.

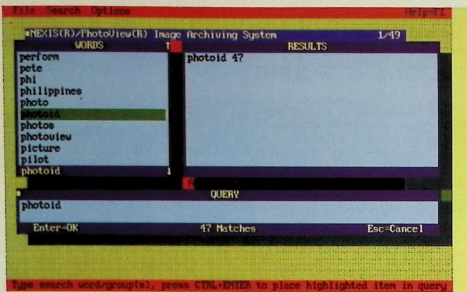
The only limit to the number of photos that can be stored is the amount of available storage space. "Theoretically, there is a limit, but you will probably never reach it. We archive captions which keep track of the images. The caption file is limited to 16-terabytes and we can search across 10 systems, so the theoretical limit is 160-terabytes," notes Cruickshank. For comparison, the entire Library of Congress is only about 4-terabytes.

Any or all of this material can be used for searches. PhotoView indexes all of the text material so searches are not only complete but very fast.

The search program presents the user with two windows, side-by-side in the central portion of the screen and a box for entering text along the bottom. The windows on the left, titled WORDS, displays a list of every word in the library. The right screen, titled RESULTS, displays a graphical representation of a search. To find a photo, you enter the word or phrase which describes the photo you want. Boolean operators (and, or, not) are allowed in searches. You can also do proximity searches, searches for single words or phrases, and even search for unrelated words which were entered in random order. Once a photo is found, it can be printed (on a postscript printer), exported to another disk, or sent to an AP Leaf Desk. PhotoView can export photos in TIF, JPEG or ANPA-IPTC formats.

The archiving or librarian station requires at least a 486 processor with a minimum of 8-megabytes of RAM and a VGA display. Search stations need only a 286-processor, but a 386 is recommended. A GPIB card is required if you are connecting to an AP Leaf Desk.





### NEXIS PhotoView

#### NIKON IMAGEACCESS

At the other end of the price scale is ImageAccess from Nikon, Inc. With a list price of only \$495, this is a remarkably robust program. Like PhotoView, it is essentially a relational database which allows for retrieving and organizing photographs and other images.

PhotoView comes with a manual, but you won't need it. Both the Macintosh and the versions are so easy to use and understand that even the novice to computers will be operating it within minutes of installation.

When images are imported into the database, ImageAccess creates thumbnails of each of the images—the originals remain untouched. The supported formats include TIF, BMP, JPEG and TGA. The thumbnails can be stored as 8-bit system palette, 24-bit uncompressed or 24-bit compressed images.

The importation process can be run in the background on both the Windows and Macintosh platforms. This allows for a full portfolio of images to be archived in a single, painless process.

Groups of photos are stored in "collections." The collection file contains records with thumbnails, data and pointers to the original images. This allows you to set up several collections based on similar images. You could, for example, have one collec-

tion which contains your family photos, another with photos of cars, etc. The program is designed to work with Nikon's LS-3510AF film Scanner. Using this scanner, one can scan images directly into the database.

Information including the file name, date of acquisition, location, size, creation/modification dates and file type (TIF, TGA, JPEG, etc.) is automatically added to the database when a file is added to the archive.

Seven additional, user-definable data fields of up to 64-characters in length and one 32k memo field are also available. All fields are indexed making searching extremely fast and flexible.

The search facilities are extremely flexible. Images can be searched based on any information in the data fields or even by the number of pixels in a file or by type of file! You can search for the actual image by name, type, size or location. Text searches can be narrowed by such criteria as "contains," "begins with," "equal," "not equal," "greater than," "less than," "greater than or equal to" or "less than or equal to."

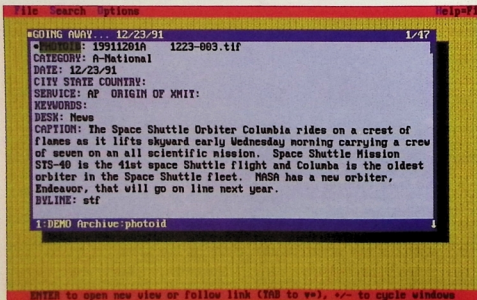
Double clicking on an image brings up a full screen view of the original. Records can be sorted and viewed alphabetically, numerically or chronologically based on information in any of the fields.

ImageAccess requires at least a 286-processor (386 is recommended) and at least 8-megabytes of RAM for the PC and System 6.0.5 or later and a minimum of 4-megabytes of RAM for the Macintosh version.

#### CONCLUSIONS

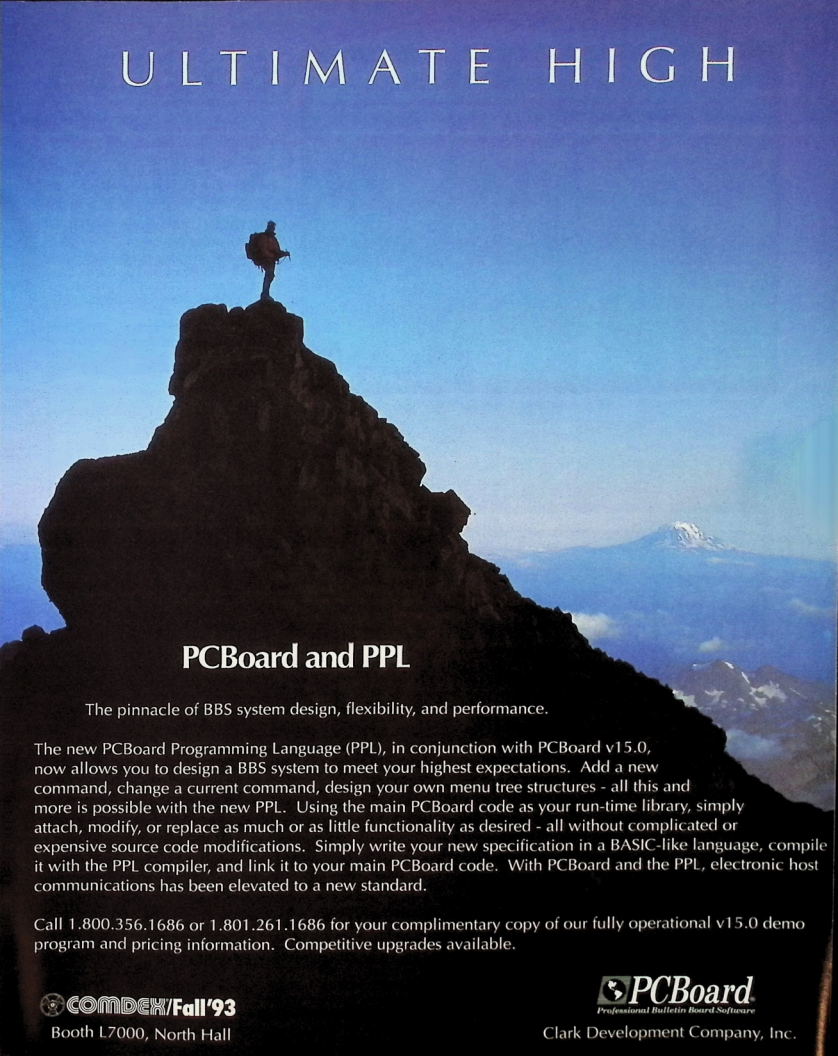
Both programs offer an easy and intelligent solution to the problem of storing and retrieving images.

PhotoView appears to be a bit quicker when it comes to searches, but since the program I had for testing did not have all features enabled, I cannot say for certain. The version I reviewed did not allow for the importation of images or the display of the full-resolution images. I was only able to search through the text mate-



### NEXIS PhotoView

# ULTIMATE HIGH



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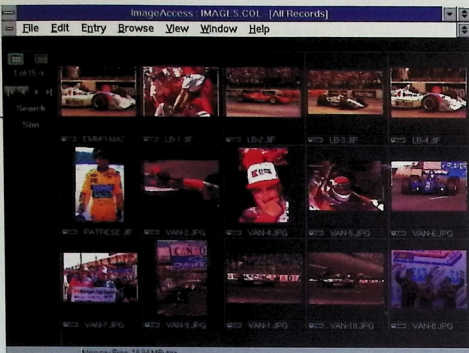
Booth L7000, North Hall



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### Nikon ImageAccess

rial and view the thumbnails that were included with the demo package. I suspect that a minimum of 16-megabytes of memory would be needed if you have any volume of images or will be opening the high-resolution files very often.

With a price tag that starts at \$5,000, one can easily get "sticker shock" from this one. However, if you are running a newspaper or other business that requires archiving a large volume of images, it does offer the power you need. Another advantage for a news publication is that it will interface with the AP Leaf Desk.

I can't say it is intentional, but the Associated Press seems to have gone to great lengths to make sure their equipment is not compatible with any other "standard" equipment in the market. This has resulted in a rather closed and profitable niche for the sale of their equipment. Basically, if you want to exchange photos with the AP, you are forced to buy their equipment, at the price they dictate — and believe me, it is not cheap. PhotoView is among the first to begin chipping away at this monopoly by allowing users to port photos from the AP Leaf Desk to a PC or Macintosh.

ImageAccess is a real pleasure to use. It is both smooth and intuitive. However, I suggest that you have at

least 16-megabytes of memory if you will be using it often. The actual searching and thumbnail viewing seems to be fine on an 8-megabyte, 386 machine. But even with 16-megabytes of memory on the same machine, you will be doing some waiting when it comes to opening large files to full screen.

The one feature this program is missing is the ability to export the text information to a file or another

database. Often one wants to print a photo along with the archived text material. There is no way to do this with ImageAccess.

Overall, I like this program. It offers an intelligent and flexible approach to image archiving for both the small user and most businesses. For the price, you can't do any better than Image Access.

[Jim Thompson is Managing Editor of *Western News Service* in Los Angeles, California. He also created and manages the Marlboro Racing News BBS. CompuServe: 72777,2677, MCI Mail: RCN, Internet: [newsdesk@cerf.net](mailto:newsdesk@cerf.net)]

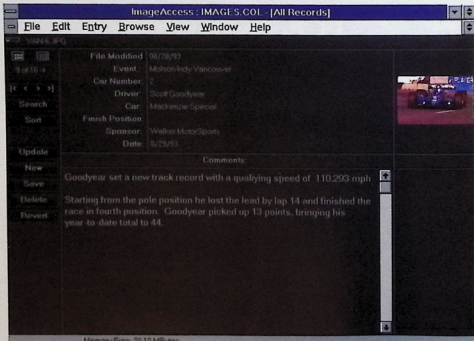
### CONTACTS:

#### NIKON IMAGEACCESS

Nikon Electronic Imaging  
1300 Walt Whitman Road  
Melville, New York 11747-3064  
(800) 52-NIKON  
(516) 547-4355  
Cost: \$495 (PC or MAC)

#### NEXIS PHOTOVIEW

Betsy Ashton  
Mead Data Central  
P.O. Box 933  
Dayton, Ohio 45401  
(513) 865-1948  
Cost:  
\$4,995 (Single Station version)  
\$7,975 (20 station Network version)



### Nikon ImageAccess

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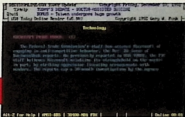
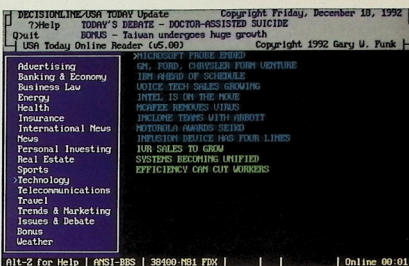
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## MACINTOSH BBS NEWS

By Bill Gram-Reefer

### TERM SOFTWARE FOR ALL SITUATIONS

**A**laddin Systems previewed its new SITcomm at MacWorld. The communications program offers scriptless, automatic logons to variety of major online services, Internet feeds such as the Well and Netcom, and popular Macintosh- and PC-based BBS systems. To ship in the 4th QTR., SITcomm carries a retail price of \$120.

In addition automatic logons, SITcomm allows for automatic file compression and decompression for a variety of formats including .SIT, .CPT, and .HQX, as well as for PC-based .ZIP, .ARC, and UNIX-based .TAR compress and UUCODE. Users can also view downloaded text and PICT files without having to launch another application. SITcomm includes support for TTY, VT102, and VT52 terminal emulation, and supports X-, Y G-, and Z-modem as well as KERMIT file transfer protocols. **Communications Toolbox** CTB compatible, SITcomm allows advanced users to place CTB tools into the system folder to support special modems, methods, and transfers, and connections including TCP/IP and ISDN. Other features for advanced users include scripting capabilities via AppleScript or UserLand's Frontier to setup automatic events such as downloaded files for viruses. Aladdin Systems; 165 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA 95706; (408) 761-6200 voice.

### UUCP LINK FOR MAC-BASED FIDONET BOARDS

**C**onnectYourBBS is a first release of a UUUCP link for Macintosh based FidoNet BBS systems. Essentially, it adds a news feed to your BBS, to allow your users to read UUUCP newsgroups not mail. Available as freeware from John Sinteur, Connect will work with most Macintosh BBS programs that support FidoNet access like TeleFinder, Mansion, Second Sight, Hermes, or whatever. You need a good working knowledge

of how **Tabby** works, with special attention to the "launch.next" process events and the generic import. A module called News/Import grabs the files transferred in by UUUCP and appends them to the generic import file for processing into your BBS. If the above is gibberish to you, you better reread the **Tabby** manuals before you attempt to install Connect. The author advises that you install Connect only if you've successfully had Tabby running on your system preferably with a FidoNet link for at least three months.

You need a working UUUCP link. UUUCP must be installed by you and running with mail transfers between your UUUCP host and your system already set up and operating without problems. When you've reached that point, and you've thoroughly read the UUUCP documentation, you probably bought some of the O'Reilly, Frasee's or Aboba's books, and you've established a friendly relationship with the system administrator on the UNIX system that has your UUUCP link. Connect requires a feature from version 3.1.

If you qualify extensive Mac bbs experience, got Tabby squared away, and have got your UUUCP link straightened out then and only then are you ready to go. Because, although Connect adds some great functionality and promises more in the future, your own experience and knowledge can help you avoid some significant land mines. For instance, The UUUCP software is not Tabby aware. Therefore, you cannot just place it in your event chain and expect it to work. So Connect adds a 'UUUCP Starter', a small utility that can sit in any Tabby event chain. It launches UUUCP with a 'call-initiation file'. You also need to create a 'Tabby Schedule' that includes UUUCP Starter - and make sure it runs during the time period you choose in the UUUCP Schedule. You then need to set up import and export paths with ResEdit. It gets complicated. But this first cut works.

ConnectYourBBS is available on



most well-stocked Mac boards. The author of ConnectYourBBS is John Sinteur. John can be reached at "sinteur@fourc.nl". **Chris Silverberg**, author of the **Booster** utility, an alternative to UUUCP Starter, can be reached at Internet: macman@wpi.wpi.edu FidoNet: 1:322/115@FidoNet.

### SUPRA AND CYPRESS ANNOUNCE VOICE MAIL APP

**A**t MacWorld, Supra and Cypress Research announced the imminent release of their jointly developed voice integrated data/fax/voice application for the Macintosh. The voice option will be made available to owners of Supra's V.32bis and V.32 faxmodem products as a \$99 firmware and software upgrade. The firmware will add **Supra Voice Processing** capability to existing Supra modems. Later this year, the duo expects to ship a stand-alone integrated voice, fax, and data product called the **Desktop Communicator**. Pricing for this product was not made available. Supra; (206) 750-9600 voice; Cypress Research; (408) 752-2700 voice.

## A-T COMMAND DESK ACCESSORY

Tired of having to search for and wade through your modem manual every time you need to adjust your modem's set-up string or initialization scheme? Well Michael Angell, sysop of the DESIGNLINK BBS has come up with a neat solution. He now is distributing free-ware called AT DA, a desk accessory/Apple Menu item that when selected pops open and contains a scrollable text file of the AT commands for popular modems.

Using Bill Steinberg's Display DA, Michael created displayed AT command sets for the following modems in DA form: SupraFAXModem v.32, v.32bis, Hayes-V Series, Hayes Ultra, Part 1, Hayes Ultra, Part 2 (The Ultra's AT set was too large to stay within Display DA's 32-K text limits.) Michael asks that you feel free to distribute them anywhere you like and give them away to everyone you know. He also suggests that if you have text files of other modems' AT commands that you would like to see in DA form, please feel free to upload them to Michael Angell at Planet BMUG BBS, (510) 849-2684, or DESIGNLINK BBS, (510) 933-7900.

## DOWNLOAD TIME GAUGE FOR FIRSTCLASS

Download/Upload Time Gauge contains resources for modifying the download files and upload files dialog boxes. The approximate time in minutes listed is for 2400 baud transfers. To install, just open Download/Upload Time Gauge and use its standard file dialog to select the FirstClass application or a settings file. That's all! When Download/Upload Time Gauge has finished installing resources, it will show you another standard file dialog so you can install resources in more files if you wish. When you're finished, click the Quit button. This addition to FirstClass is provided freely. "Download/Upload Time Gauge" Utilizes "Update", an application which makes it easy to install the latest resources into the FirstClass BBS application and its settings files. Thanks to Michael C. Zastrow, "The Rest Of Us" FirstClass BBS, The Chicago Area

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## STALKER UPGRADES SOFTWARE ROUTER FOR MAC

Stalker Software GmbH., with development labs located in Moscow, Russia, and U.S. sales and support offices in Campbell, CA, has announced new versions of its PortShare Lite and PortShare Pro networking software for the Macintosh. Essentially a media-independent, software-based AppleTalk router, the PortShare products enable users to share modems, printers, plotters, and other serial devices on an AppleTalk local area network (LAN). For Mac users on networks, this means you can use the modem on the Mac that's three doors down from your office without having to spend much dollars for "net-capable" modems or other serial devices dedicated bridges.

PortShare Lite v.2.0 adds support for Apple Remote Access (ARA) software and retails at \$49. PortShare Pro v.2.0, with an advanced feature set, retails at \$149, and adds a Statistics Panel that logs real-time, serial-port throughput and network

transmission errors. Stalker products are available direct to end users from Global Way, an authorized U.S. reseller based in Campbell, CA.

Stalker's PortShare products are compatible with System 7 and Apple's Communications Toolbox (CTB), and support connections across multiple AppleTalk zones at rates up to 57.6 Kbps depending on network media and traffic. As an interrupt-driven extension controlled from within the Chooser, PortShare runs in the background letting users share devices providing maximum performance no matter what other applications are running on the Macintosh. Including password protection for each shared port, PortShare arbitrates concurrent requests to the same port, indicates network activity, and logs user activities for any or all shared ports. With PortShare installed, network administrators can designate ports and peripherals available for sharing, and lets users access a shared port on some other computer.

PortShare Lite, which lets each user make their built-in serial port usable by other Macintosh computers on a network, now includes full



support for ARA allowing users to share the same port used for incoming ARA calls, and to use ARA to call out and connect to a remote network through a shared modem.

In addition to its new Statistics Panel, PortShare Pro's advanced features allow users to employ both a Mac's built-in modem and printer ports to access shared devices simultaneously. PortShare Pro also provides support for ARA, and includes the ability to create virtual ports for applications compatible with CTB, and the ability to redefine older applications and non-CTB-compatible tools so they can be used without having to be attached to the external serial port. Additionally, PortShare Pro lets network administrators assign group names to any number of shared devices connected to one or more servers on a network.

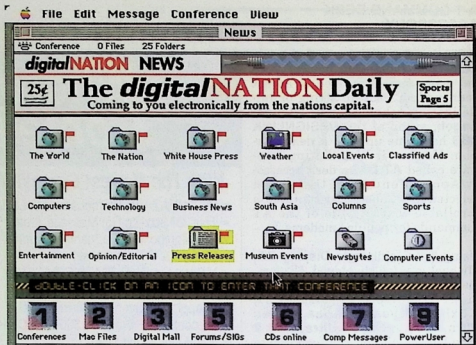
Both PortShare products are available now, and include the software, full documentation, access to U.S.-based fax/voice telephone support, and offer a 30-day, unlimited warranty and money-back guarantee. Upgrades are free to registered users with a minimal charge for shipping and handling. For end-user, retail sales or literature contact: **Global Way, P.O. Box 1631, Campbell, CA 95009-1631; (800)-262-4722 sales; (408)-370-3170 fax.**

## MAC BOARDS TO CHECK OUT

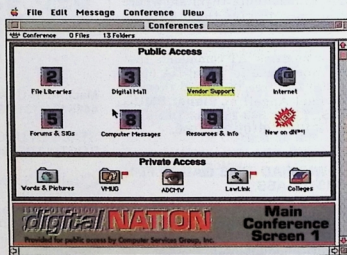
**D**igitalNATION, a communications system of the **Computer Services Group of Alexandria, VA**, is a relatively new Mac-based BBS serving the beltway, a tri-state area that surrounds our nation's capitol and insulates it from the riffraff and their plebeian ideas about just and effective representation. The beltway is known for its legions of pols, lobbyists, media, and government officials all making a buck off our fractured fairy tale of a representative system of government, so it follows that there should be a BBS serving such a community. And **digitalNATION**, administered by **Scott Mandell**, goes a long way towards matching the rhetoric of the wannabe politicians it serves by offering a comprehensive program that attempts to cover all areas of

life, while providing a slick-willy interface that looks great and sounds good, but doesn't yet deliver the beans as well as it could.

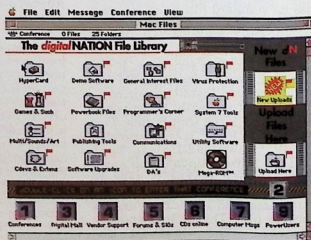
Actually, **digitalNATION's** customization of the **FirstClass** host and user software is without doubt the most advanced I've seen and deserves praise for its innovative design. When you log on you get a desktop that routes you to conferences, mail, news, or system info. Behind door number two is an even more impressive display that on the top half, looks like a regular FC window with folders. But on the lower half of the screen are up to eight icon buttons that help you navigate to any other main branch of the tree-structured system without having to retrace your previous steps back down the limb. On screen help prompts are available.



The digitalNation Daily menu screen.



digitalNATION main conference Screen 1 menu icons.



digitalNATION file library screen.

All told, it has a prodigious look and feel, and provides for some easy exits from one area to another. But not quick ones. The problem is it's slow. Why? I think, because once you root down to the fifth layer of a conference branch, you can decide to click on one of the lower icons to jump over to a file downloads section. Pretty cool. But after a couple of these quantum leaps you can easily end up with more than a dozen open windows. I found I had to tend frequently to this morass by closing the folders that had been left open because I could just jump right out of one area to another without cleaning up after myself. The little red line was painfully slow without such housekeeping.

Several innovative touches I liked include a digitalNATION news feed that groups world news into convenient folders. As the home for VMUG, a local user group, and LAWLink, the board appears to have figured out how to rent space. Other nifty areas included a College Club where alums from various schools could get in touch with each other. They should have the respective colleges' alumni associations pay a fee for this, really, especially when it tends to serve exclusive schools such as Dartmouth, Cornell, U. of V., George Washington, V. Tech, Duke, and Georgetown. I don't expect we'll ever see Grambling, Davis & Elkins, or Kent State listed. Typical D.C.

Of course there's a politics section grouped into capital hill, economy, and big brother topics. Take your pick, it's all the same. Senator Kennedy's office, one of the few Mac shops on the hill, uploads numerous PR pieces, while the pet section had an active ferret subsection. Located in a town where government is, digitalNATION's QuickTime file library was full of Iraqi war footage, NASA hype, and naval-action clips.

digitalNATION's scope of conference sections include: parenting, religion, fire fighting, psychiatry, 8 subsections under science, 20 classified sections, lots of vendor areas, 26 hobby areas, sports talk, tons of Mac support, current events, and acceptable file selection including a Mega-ROM CD. Though impressive,

I wonder how active each of those conference sections really is, or is it all there for show just to help the caller get the feeling that this isn't really a BBS but a steroid-pumped regional alternative to CompuServe or AOL. digitalNATION; (703)-642-0453 bbs.

If you want to feel at home while away from home, check out BMUG Boston's BBS administered by Roz Ault. As a denizen of the west coast version of BMUG, I couldn't help but think, why pay long distance to get basically the same thing? BMUG news and the usual OneNet conferences, am I right? Well, at first it seemed the same, but then, as I settled in, I noticed some distinct features of BMUG Boston that changed my opinion. To sum it up, I got the feeling that it was more a BBS focused on helping people use the service, than as a BBS geared more to funneling people into the user group's activities.

Sure there were the networked conferences including Modem, Internet Q&A, MacNetAdmin, Bay Mac Women, and the ubiquitous BulkRate conference and FAQs. And sure there were the regional conferences and news items. In August the board was in a dither over MacWorld, the launch of Newton, and the Celtics' tragic loss of their fallen star Reggie Lewis. Other local SIGs included Boston social scene, where to eat, more press announcements from Senator Kennedy at least he's got his own folder in his own district, and strong educational conferences. The Beliefs folder was empty. I wonder if that it means Boston is devoid of all values. And then there is a Mass Chat... no, it couldn't mean... More a Maoist influence I think, than a virtual Sunday service.

But aside from these standard local touches the board is concerned about making IT a place to be and easy to use. I was impressed, for instance, by the placement of news-group thread topics within appropriate local conference or SIG folders, rather than all being lumped in one area. The Daily news and weather reports including satellite GIFs looked like something I'd want to log on for every day while I sipped my morning coffee or planned my trip to visit friends in Rye, NH.

There was the perfunctory BMUG Projects folder, but this felt like it was in its proper place and not dominating the scene. An Internet mail gateway is available through a link with Braintree. Down for maintenance on Sundays, BMUG Boston's BBS definitely has taken some good steps in focusing on being a service in itself. I'll report on BMUG (Berkeley) soon, and report on its own experimental facelift initiated in late August. BMUG Boston; (617)-721-5840 bbs.

## ATTENTION MAC SYSOPS

If you have a Macintosh-based BBS—even if it's not bi-coastal—let us know who you are and what you think you're doing that makes your board special. To make things easy for everyone, mail a diskette containing your user program with a preset account, time allotment 1 hr. for editorial deadbeats like me should be plenty and password to the address below so I can log on and take a look around your system. Also include a text-file that describes your board and any interesting places on it you think are special. I'll try to visit as many boards as possible and write about the most interesting ones I can find. MAC BBS, 2069 Highland Drive, Concord, CA 94520.

Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of **WORLDVIEW**, specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. E-mail Bill at: [wk05156@worldlink.com](mailto:wk05156@worldlink.com).

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# THE BBS BURNINGS

By Lance Rose

Computer bulletin board owners are being arrested in various cities, while local news media weigh in with tales of high tech villainy. Fear of BBS's is still spreading across the land; if a BBS was a book, they'd burn it. Since computers are a lot more expensive than books and don't burn too well anyway, we are seeing sysops tossed in the slammer and their equipment confiscated instead.

Civil rights seem too often to go on vacation when the police confront sysops and BBS's. This month, we zero in to look at two sysops who are receiving a raw deal from their local police. These are not the only criminal proceedings under way, just the ones on which we have more information. How many more sysops will be wrongfully arrested and their possessions confiscated before the cops figure out how to accord them their basic rights as U.S. citizens?

## 1. TONY DAVIS & THE SHOW-BIZ COPS OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The arrest of Tony Davis was reported in last month's Boardwatch. Davis operated the *Oklahoma Information Exchange BBS* in Oklahoma City. On August 17, 1993, he was formally arraigned in Oklahoma state court and allowed to remain out of jail on \$4500 bail. Since the first report, we looked into this affair more closely. The closer one looks, the more absurd Davis' plight gets.

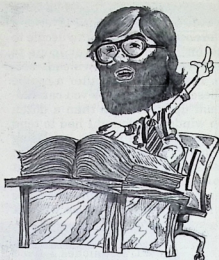
The police investigation of Tony Davis culminated in two purchases of allegedly obscene CD-ROMs from Davis by undercover police on June 4th and July 12th, 1993. Shortly after the second purchase, on July 19, 1993, they arrived in force at Tony Davis' office with a warrant and seized some adult CD-ROMs from the stock he maintained in operating a CD-ROM retail business. They did not stop there, however. They also grabbed his BBS computer equipment and arrested Davis.

The event had little chance of passing unnoticed, as the police brought along a professional video camera and

videotaped the whole affair. Afterwards they edited the tape, wrote a script, and with the help of the local ABC affiliate turned it into a weekly installment of a "reality television" program called *"You're Busted"*. It was broadcast throughout the Oklahoma City area on July 23rd, four days after the raid. For that extra dose of reality, the episode was narrated by one of the policemen who searched Davis' place and arrested him.

As the police burst in on Davis, the voiceover informed TV viewers they were witnessing the control center for Davis' *"International pornographic network"*. Out of roughly 2,000 CD-ROMs Davis kept on hand for the CD-ROM retail business he operated, the police confiscated 57. For purposes of comparison, that's under 3% of Davis' total stock of CD-ROMs. A far smaller percentage than the amount of hardcore adult material found in typical video stores in most parts of our country. Later in the show, the cop with the video camera focused on a computer screen showing the CD-ROM activity on Davis' BBS. The names of BBS users could be seen as they downloaded files from CD-ROMs. The narrating officer knowingly explained to the TV audience that they were seeing BBS users "viewing the smut" right then and there (not to spoil the fun, but the police were mistaken; users can't read image files they are transferred to their own computers). At the end of the show, the narrator belted out the show's theme: "Tony Davis, you're busted!" Davis did not enjoy his 15 minutes of fame. According to Davis, "the *'You're Busted'* show was the most degrading thing I've seen done to anybody in my life."

The newspapers were thoroughly scooped but joined in spiritedly, passing along police allegations that Tony Davis was running a "high-tech, modern-day porno house". They noted that other investigations continued, which might mean the police were investigating Davis' CD-ROM suppliers, his customers, or both. To their credit, they also gave a number of column inches to questions raised



by Davis' defense attorney, William Holmes, about the legality of the police actions.

Davis was charged with four obscenity-related counts at the arraignment, two based on the CD-ROM purchases by undercover officers prior to the raid. Another count charged Davis with criminal "possession" of obscenity, despite the Supreme Court's declaration in the past that mere possession of obscene material is perfectly legal. The addition of this bizarre claim indicates either that the local police do not understand the Constitutional rights of U.S. citizens, or do not care. The last count was for trafficking in obscene images. According to Davis' attorney, this statute was originally enacted in reaction to pornographic video games, and now seems to be directed at the downloading of BBS files that the cops videotaped. All charges could have a very hard time sticking if the defective search and seizure procedures used by the police are closely scrutinized in court.

Those procedures do appear deeply defective. Federal protections for BBS's and sysops were apparently ignored wholesale in the Davis raid, just as in other BBS raids we've seen the past couple of years. The *Electronic Communications Privacy Act* ("ECPA"), protects electronic messages against government search or seizure. When the police took Davis' BBS, they prevented messages traveling through the BBS from being delivered to their ultimate addresses. About 150 messages went undelivered, according to Davis' attorney.

This interception violates the ECPA, even if the police resisted the temptation to read e-mail on the seized computers back in their offices.

**The Privacy Protection Act ("PPA")**, prohibits seizure of materials being kept or prepared for publication, unless the person holding them is suspected of a crime involving those very materials (with a few narrow exceptions). Davis' business activities included publishing the "**Magnum**" series of CD-ROMS, none of which were included in the titles the police thought obscene. By seizing computers containing the materials used by Davis' in publishing his CD-ROMS, the police grossly violated the PPA. Since Davis was not suspected or accused of any crime in relation to the Magnum CD-ROMs he published, any associated materials simply should not have been touched by the police.

Even plain vanilla **4th and 5th Amendment** warrant requirements may have been violated by the police in this case. According to sources, the Oklahoma City police typically obtain a warrant based on an informal chat with the magistrate. Afterwards, they perform the actions authorized by the warrant, and only then submit a formal affidavit to support the warrant. If the police followed this sloppy and deeply illegal procedure in Davis' case, then his due process rights were grossly violated. As a further example of official slop, neither the warrant under which the raid was conducted, nor the police request for that warrant, mentioned Davis' computer bulletin board at all. That fatal omission did not stop the cops from taking all the computer equipment anyway.

Perhaps the Oklahoma City prosecutors believe the seizure was legal because it is authorized under Oklahoma's own obscenity seizure statutes. If so, they're dead wrong. Federal due process protections trump state seizure laws. There was no emergency here to justify even a temporary abridgement of Davis' full due process rights. The particular importance of the ECPA and PPA should not be underestimated by Oklahoma state attorneys or anyone else. The protections of these statutes are so important that Congress spelled them out expressly, even though in a sense they merely clarify protections already contained in the

Constitution. The police cannot bat these protections out of the way every time they threaten this week's episode of "**You're Busted.**"

Davis' lawyer, himself a former local prosecutor, appears fully aware of the mess the police are making of the Davis matter. He sent them a letter a week after the raid formally notifying them they are violating the ECPA and PPA through their seizure and retention of Davis' computer equipment. In doing so, he is trying to short circuit a possible future defense by the cops that they did not know they were doing anything wrong by holding Davis' equipment. Readers of Boardwatch may recall the lawsuit won by **Steve Jackson Games** against the U.S. government in Austin, Texas a few months back. The federal court held that the agents' naive BBS seizure violating the ECPA and PPA could be excused, but the agents became obligated to return the wrongly seized materials as soon as they found out about their privacy and publishing aspects and the laws forbidding their seizure. The same should certainly hold true here. Despite this precedent, as of August 19th the police still did not return anything to Davis, almost a month after receiving his lawyer's notifying letter.

Why did the police pick on Davis? It certainly wasn't due to their keen law enforcement instincts. Despite the screaming newspaper headlines about porno shop merchants, Davis is a well-known and respected business man. He runs a telephone goods and services company, selling equipment and special services like Centrex switching to local area businesses. He was operating Oklahoma Information Exchange, a widely reputed and very busy BBS. He was one of the founders of **Fidonet**, and was Region 19 coordinator for several years. In his CD-ROM business, he sold many titles (with adult titles accounting for a minute portion of his business), and produced his own Magnum CD-ROMs.

Davis also had a fairly extensive age verification scheme to assure only adults were getting access to adult materials on his BBS. Memberships were which to those who had credit cards. In addition, to get access to the adult area users had to send Davis assigned letter stating they were over 21. Despite these measures, when the

dust cleared Davis' standing as a businessman and his age verification procedures did nothing to slow down the police.

After talking with Davis, his attorney and other local sources, the blame for his troubles should be laid on the creepy little deal the Oklahoma City police cooked up with the local ABC TV affiliate for the "**You're Busted**" television program. The TV station gave the police a professional video camera and the opportunity to shoot, script and narrate a TV program called "**You're Busted**". The payoff to the police was 15 minutes of fame on a weekly basis for individual cops, and great publicity and a high profile for police department as a whole. In return, the TV station received a TV show in hugely popular "reality television" format, an exclusive relationship with the police not enjoyed by other local stations, and, it would appear, very low production costs.

A great business deal for the police and the television station, but terrible news for just about everyone else. For starters, the police end up paying less attention to protecting the community and more to show biz. On-the-scene arrests make the best TV, so the police will be more motivated to obtain search and arrest warrants and less concerned about whether the intrusion on peoples' lives is justified. In fact, the more individuals they intrude on, the better the "**You're Busted**" episode.

The effect on the news media is just as bad. The local ABC affiliate falsely presents the police-made footage as "reality", when in fact it's been manufactured for TV just like all other TV fodder. The police may not be conversant with the finer points of constitutional law, but they're smart enough to know if they don't make a good show they'll be canned fast by the station. Further, the media, the proud "fourth estate", lets itself become no more than a flack for the local police. The public, as usual, is victimized on both ends. It gets prosecution of the most entertaining instead of the most deserving, while the couch potatoes of Oklahoma City are served up a desperately skewed view of law enforcement and who are the criminals.

Without the cop/show biz connection, Tony Davis might never have been busted. If the police had taken the



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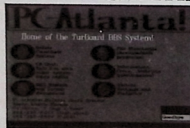
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trouble to investigate Davis' life a bit, they would have discovered that the adult CD-ROMs were only a small part of his business. Tony Davis is not a porn merchant, not the type of person to hold up to others as a bad example. Yet with their constant need to come up with new and exciting material on a TV production schedule, the police overlooked the reality of Davis' business. It fit their agenda better to bust Tony Davis with a bang with the whole world watching, than to quietly give Davis a word to the wise about the police department's newly formulated policies on digitized adult materials.

Indeed, the police departments' failure to give Davis a little advance warning seems almost criminally negligent. According to assistant district attorney Lori Nettleton, "This is the first time that charges have been filed involving the use of computers in an obscenity case in Oklahoma County." A quick look at the laws under which Davis was charged shows they were on the Oklahoma statute books for almost ten years. Why did the police not act under them until now?

One could argue the police themselves promoted the growth of the adult computer file business through their own laissez-faire attitude toward computer obscenity laws for the last ten years. Most people figure out whether something's illegal by looking to see if the police are arresting people for doing it. While this is no excuse for pursuing clearly criminal activity, Davis' acts were, at worst, in a grey area of arguable criminality. Now the police are overzealous to make an example out of him, after entirely failing to give any guidance on just what counts as criminal conduct when it comes to adult materials.

In the overzealous police raid and arrest of Tony Davis, everyone loses. Davis loses his freedom and his property, and he already lost much of his reputation as a business man. The users of the Oklahoma Information Exchange BBS lost. They trusted that they had rights of privacy from the government, and the Oklahoma City police betrayed that trust. The police will lose as well if they are held responsible for their gross violations of warrant procedures. If anyone decides to sue them, maybe they'll be kind enough to videotape it so we can watch it all later on TV.

## **2. MICHAEL ELANSKY & HIS CONNECTICUT BBS BOMB FACTORY**

Moving from the absurd to the ridiculous, a 21 year old sysop named Michael Elansky is in jail on \$500,000 bail in West Hartford, Connecticut. The crime? They found a text file on his BBS describing how to build a bomb.

Elansky spoke with me from prison, while a noisy fellow inmate yelled at him the whole time to get off the phone. His bulletin board system, the Warehouse BBS, was about three years old, with two lines, 1.2 gigabytes of storage and a CD-ROM drive. His specialty was utility software, and he boasted a full range of the latest and greatest utilities to be found on the networks. One day near the end of June, he was picked up by the police after they discovered a file named ANARC2 on his BBS. This file, uploaded by a user, was an anarchist tract preaching chaos and disorder for society. Deeper into the file was the bomb-making recipe cited by the police. A recipe, according to Elansky's father, straight out of the *Anarchist's Cookbook*, an above-ground publication available from Paladin Press to anyone with the price of purchase.

The file was found in an area of the Warehouse BBS called IIRG, for "International Information Retrieval Group." Elansky says this group gathered all kinds of information. Anything might be found there at a given time, so it was no surprise that bomb-making plans had found their way to that area. The file was supposedly downloaded by a 14 year old caller, who then contacted the police, leading to Elansky's arrest. Elansky disputes this claim, saying his BBS records don't show that anyone who might have been 14 downloaded the file in question.

Two charges were filed against Elansky. The first is inciting injury to persons and property, based on the mere fact that the ANARC2 file was on Elansky's BBS. The second charge is creating risk of injury to a minor, covering the download by the 14 year old. Somehow Elansky, simply by having the anarchist file on his BBS, is blamed by the police for the possibility that some young kid might download the bomb-building instructions, build a bomb, and blow it up

and hurt himself. According to Elansky's parents, he found out months before the arrest that an investigator had been checking out his BBS. He gave the investigator a call and invited him over to inspect the BBS at close range, but the investigator demurred. The arrest and jailing eventually followed.

Elansky was held on \$500,000 bail right from the beginning. This was far more than his parents could afford, so he went straight into jail to await further proceedings. His attorney was outraged when he learned of the bail amount, and obtained a hearing on having it lowered. The judge was none too sympathetic to Elansky. He flatly refused to lower the bail amount, saying Elansky ran a bomb-making factory using his BBS, and that he was just as dangerous as the bomber who blew up the World Trade Center. Naturally, the local newspaper picked up the bomb factory angle for their shocked story about the jailed local BBS sysop.

Elansky says the police and the judge are not only equating his mere possession of text with trafficking in bombs, but also seem to be holding him personally accountable for the ANARC2 file. ANARC2 was written by a stranger and uploaded by a BBS user, but the police are acting as if Elansky wrote the text himself. According to sources, the ANARC2 file in fact is widely available across the various computer networks.

If this seems far too much fuss over a little chunk of text, indeed it is. There is another side to this story. Elansky and the West Haven police have been playing a game of cat and mouse for the past few years, with bomber accusations against Elansky the constant theme. Elansky says it started in 1988, when the police found him with explosives. He says they were for a fireworks show at his high school, the police say they were bombs. The police wanted him to cop a plea and turn over friends who also dabbled in explosives. He refused, and they had to let him go for lack of strong enough evidence to convict him of anything. Since that time, he says, the police have given him a hard time, picking him up a couple more times with explosives in his possession, but always letting him go again. While Elansky admits he has had exploding objects in his possession, he says it



was always in connection with fireworks displays, a hobby of his. Elansky's account is certainly plausible, though the facts he relates could also support the view that he was dabbling in bombs the whole time. Either way, we can understand why the police were so eager to put him away for a bomb making recipe.

Regardless of their motivations, however, the police made a big mistake in jailing Elansky for a text file on his BBS. The 1st Amendment prohibits government officials from acting against anyone for distributing material containing political content. If, as Elansky's parents claim, he did not even know the file was on his BBS until after he was arrested, then he is entitled to even greater legal protection from prosecution, such as accorded to book stores and magazine distributors. Distributors are not responsible for materials passing through their systems, even patently illegal materials like obscene or infringing publications, unless they are specifically aware of the materials in question. This rule is necessary to assure the smooth flow of 1st Amendment materials through mass distribution systems for both printed and electronic materials. Without the rule, distribution systems would slow to a crawl as their owners review every text to make sure they will not

get sued for carrying it. Even if Elansky made bombs all those years as the police believe, this gives no support to jailing him based on the BBS file. The police acted criminally in penalizing him for speech on his BBS. There is an "incitement" exception to the protection of speech, but it requires a "clear and present danger" that injury is about to result from the speech being penalized. There was absolutely no clear and present danger from the bomb-making file on the Warehouse BBS. The text was in circulation for years in print form, and is now common all over the nets, just another wild-eyed political leaflet strewn along the electronic highway. If the text ever posed a present danger to anyone, that "present" has by now receded into the distant past. At any rate, Elansky did not author the file, did not even know it was on his system, and absolutely should not be held legally to account for it.

The question now is whether the West Hartford police will continue their illegal incarceration of Elansky based on the BBS bomb-making file. Their best bet would be to cut their losses now and spring him loose. In the meantime, Elansky has been cooling his heels in jail for three weeks now, and looks forward to at least another three weeks behind

bars before the next hearing in his case.

As we went to press, Elansky called me once more from jail, telling me his parents just set up a legal defense fund. Boardwatch readers who want to help can send checks payable to the "Michael Elansky Fund", acc.# 02060573652, either to the Society for Savings, 342 North Main Street, West Hartford, CT, 06117 or directly to Michael Elansky, 25 Maiden Lane, West Hartford, CT 06117 (we did not have time to confirm this with the Society for Savings). They're going to need every penny. Elansky says he just hired the best lawyer in town, who charged an initial retainer of \$15,000 to get started. This could be an important 1st Amendment case; if you think he's been wronged, helping Michael can be a good investment in justice.

[Lance Rose is an attorney practicing high-tech and information law in Montclair, NJ. He can be found on the Internet at [elrose@well.sf.ca.us](mailto:elrose@well.sf.ca.us), and on Compuserve at 72230,2044. He is also author of SysLaw, the legal guide for online service providers, available from PC Information Group at 800-321-8285. - Editor]

## INTERNET NOTES

### PLAYING IN THE MUD

By Kevin M. Savetz

Much of the online world works on a store-and-forward concept that broadly reduces the importance of time and space. But increasingly, real-time functions such as chat and multiplayer games are garnering attention online as well. On the Internet, the analog to this is widely referred to as Multi-User Dungeon or (MUD). Patterned after text adventure games of the Dungeons and Dragons genre - they've been popular on the net for a number of years.

**WHAT IS MUD?** MUDs are programs that allow you to interact in real-time with other people in a virtual environment. Your electronic world surroundings might include any combination of characters, creatures, rooms and objects. Users in the world of a MUD can converse, move around,

affect the environment, play games, program, hunt for treasure, and fight vile beasts. MUDs are generally accessed by using the Internet's telnet program to connect to a remote MUD "server" - the program that is the heart of the simulated environment.

MUDs usually have various "locations" or "rooms" that players can move through by typing the compass directions. Objects can be manipulated with commands like GET, LOOK, EAT and THROW. Conversation with others users (and sometimes intelligent programs) is accomplished using the SAY command, for speaking "aloud," and EMOTE, to show actions. (For instance, "waffle looks at you cross-eyed.") MUDs incorporate ideas from "real life," affectionately known as "RL" to mudders. On some MUDs, elements pilfered from RL include economic systems, household appliances, magic, and weddings.

Most MUDs are text-only. Although

graphics-oriented MUDs exist, they have drawbacks. They are usually slower than text-only MUDs. Then too, using a graphical MUD requires special "client" software that interprets the graphics data and displays it on your screen. Because there are so many computer systems - from Atari ST to Macintosh, from Sun to Z80s - it's not always possible to get the right client software for your machine. So, for now, text-based MUDs are the norm. Most mudders don't consider this a drawback, however. MUDs are quite like "Zork" and other text adventure games: the graphics are unnecessary when there are detailed and imaginative descriptions of players and objects. A good part of the game actually resides in the minds and imaginations of the players. In some odd ways, graphics actually seem to detract from the action in some cases.

**IS MUD A GAME?** That depends on

# LIST OF MUDS

MUDs come and go daily, so some of the following MUDs may no longer be active after press time. For a possibly complete and potentially up-to-date listing, read "The Totally Unofficial List of Internet Muds" on the Usenet group [rec.games.mud.announce](mailto:rec.games.mud.announce), where it is posted frequently. You may also get it via FTP from [rtfm.mit.edu](ftp://rtfm.mit.edu) in directory [pub/usenet/rec.games.mud.announce](ftp://pub/usenet/rec.games.mud.announce).

To access a MUD, you need an Internet account and access to the "telnet" program which connects your computer to a remote "host" running a the MUD server. Most muds require you to request a specific port number, a numeric extension following the host address, for example: [telnet lambda.parc.xerox.com 8888](telnet://lambda.parc.xerox.com/8888) or [telnet 132.116.36.8888](telnet://132.116.36.8888).

## AberMUDs

|                 |  |                |      |
|-----------------|--|----------------|------|
| Askerbulkum     | <a href="mailto:minsk.docs.uu.se">minsk.docs.uu.se</a>                                   | 130.238.9.30   | 6715 |
| DragonMud       | <a href="mailto:fermina.informatik.rwth-aachen.de">fermina.informatik.rwth-aachen.de</a> | 137.226.224.20 | 6715 |
| Kender's Kove   | <a href="mailto:marx.esu.edu">marx.esu.edu</a>   | 192.147.113.10 | 6715 |
| Longhorn        | <a href="mailto:lisoos.cs.utexas.edu">lisoos.cs.utexas.edu</a>                           | 128.83.139.10  | 6715 |
| Mustang MUD     | <a href="mailto:mustang.dell.com">mustang.dell.com</a>                                   | 143.166.224.42 | 6715 |
| Northern Lights | <a href="mailto:aber.ludd.luth.se">aber.ludd.luth.se</a>                                 | 130.240.16.18  | 6715 |
| Tyrann II       | <a href="mailto:muselab.ac.runet.edu">muselab.ac.runet.edu</a>                           | 137.45.33.100  | 6715 |
|                 | <a href="mailto:muselab-gw.runet.edu">muselab-gw.runet.edu</a>                           | 137.45.128.10  |      |

## DikuMUDs

|                |  |                |      |
|----------------|--|----------------|------|
| AlexMUD        | <a href="mailto:mud.stacken.kth.se">mud.stacken.kth.se</a>             | 130.237.234.17 | 4000 |
| Apocalypse III | <a href="mailto:peabrain.humen.upenn.edu">peabrain.humen.upenn.edu</a> | 128.91.3.204   | 4000 |
| BobMUD         | <a href="mailto:newt.cc.gesneo.edu">newt.cc.gesneo.edu</a>             | 137.238.1.11   | 9000 |

|                     |  |                |      |
|---------------------|--|----------------|------|
| Chomestoru          | <a href="mailto:mccool.cbl.msstate.edu">mccool.cbl.msstate.edu</a> | 130.18.104.2   | 4000 |
| Dark Knight's Realm | <a href="mailto:sun1.cstore.ucf.edu">sun1.cstore.ucf.edu</a>       | 132.170.223.1  | 4000 |
| FredMUD             | <a href="mailto:fred.indstate.edu">fred.indstate.edu</a>           | 139.102.12.14  | 2150 |
| Generic MUD         | <a href="mailto:susan.mit.edu">susan.mit.edu</a>                   | 18.80.1.222    | 4000 |
| Gods of War         | <a href="mailto:shadow.ac.il.tu.edu">shadow.ac.il.tu.edu</a>       | 192.41.245.143 | 4000 |
| GrimmeMUD           | <a href="mailto:gytje.pvv.unit.no">gytje.pvv.unit.no</a>           | 129.241.36.229 | 4000 |
| KIT-MUD             | <a href="mailto:jinsil.kaist.ac.kr">jinsil.kaist.ac.kr</a>         | 137.68.17.5    | 4000 |
| Last Outpost        | <a href="mailto:sprinkle.cray.com">sprinkle.cray.com</a>           | 128.162.84.19  | 4000 |
| MUME                | <a href="mailto:lbsdun4.epfl.ch">lbsdun4.epfl.ch</a>               | 128.178.77.5   | 4000 |

|                  |  |                |      |
|------------------|--|----------------|------|
| Medievalia       | <a href="mailto:bigboy.cis.temple.edu">bigboy.cis.temple.edu</a>     | 129.32.32.98   | 4000 |
| Mozart           | <a href="mailto:cscl1.uark.edu">cscl1.uark.edu</a>                   | 130.184.71.148 | 4000 |
| Mudde Pathetique | <a href="mailto:flyxex.berkeley.edu">flyxex.berkeley.edu</a>         | 128.32.128.36  | 2999 |
| QUESTI           | <a href="mailto:steinmetz.ee.utlisa.edu">steinmetz.ee.utlisa.edu</a> | 129.244.59.34  | 1701 |
| Renegade Outpost | <a href="mailto:louie.cc.utexas.edu">louie.cc.utexas.edu</a>         | 128.83.135.4   | 9998 |

|               |  |                |      |
|---------------|--|----------------|------|
| Rivers of Mud | <a href="mailto:cie-2.uoregon.edu">cie-2.uoregon.edu</a>       | 128.223.36.161 | 9000 |
| Rocky Mud     | <a href="mailto:spot.colorado.edu">spot.colorado.edu</a>       | 128.138.129.2  | 4000 |
| SillyMud      | <a href="mailto:doldrums.cis.uff.edu">doldrums.cis.uff.edu</a> | 128.227.224.35 | 4001 |

|                     |  |                |      |
|---------------------|--|----------------|------|
| Snebo-land          | <a href="mailto:thrash.isca.uiowa.edu">thrash.isca.uiowa.edu</a> | 128.255.19.235 | 4000 |
| The Crystal Shard   | <a href="mailto:mib16.eng.ua.edu">mib16.eng.ua.edu</a>           | 130.160.80.16  | 9000 |
| The Perilous Realms | <a href="mailto:odin.wosc.osshe.edu">odin.wosc.osshe.edu</a>     | 140.211.111.20 | 2150 |

## LPmuds

|                 |  |                |      |
|-----------------|--|----------------|------|
| AbacusMUD       | <a href="mailto:abacumud.hgs.se">abacumud.hgs.se</a>               | 130.238.204.21 | 4080 |
| Ancient Anguish | <a href="mailto:dancer.ethz.ch">dancer.ethz.ch</a>                 | 129.132.57.66  | 2222 |
| Beyond Belief   | <a href="mailto:cook.brunel.ac.uk">cook.brunel.ac.uk</a>           | 134.83.128.246 | 4444 |
| Darker Realms   | <a href="mailto:worf.tamu.edu">worf.tamu.edu</a>                   | 128.194.51.189 | 2000 |
| Deeper Trouble  | <a href="mailto:alk.iesd.auc.dk">alk.iesd.auc.dk</a>               | 130.225.48.46  | 4242 |
| DragonFire      | <a href="mailto:bigben.umc.edu">bigben.umc.edu</a>                 | 134.124.42.246 | 3000 |
| GateWay         | <a href="mailto:actlab.rtf.utexas.edu">actlab.rtf.utexas.edu</a>   | 128.83.194.11  | 6969 |
| Genesis         | <a href="mailto:milou.cd.chalmers.se">milou.cd.chalmers.se</a>     | 129.16.79.12   | 2000 |
|                 | <a href="mailto:ibtest1.cs.chalmers.se">ibtest1.cs.chalmers.se</a> | 129.16.225.125 | 3011 |
| Highlands       | <a href="mailto:plp.shsu.edu">plp.shsu.edu</a>                     | 192.92.115.10  | 2000 |
| Igor            | <a href="mailto:ny.mtkc.chalmers.se">ny.mtkc.chalmers.se</a>       | 129.16.60.9    | 1701 |

who you ask. One "wizard" (a person who runs or help keep control of a MUD) I know vehemently proclaims that his MUD is a "Social experiment in a text-based virtual reality." Maybe, but to most of his users, it's a game.

Each MUD has a theme. Connect to any given MUD, and you might find yourself on a drifting space station, in Medieval England, in a sprawling Northern California mansion, or in any other of a million scenarios. Because many MUDs differ in theme, scope and goals, each one attracts different sorts of users. Some MUDs allow users to cast spells, chase dragons, and frolic in a virtual wilderness with electronic gnomes. I think it would be safe to call this type of MUD a game. Then again, some MUDs are used mainly for programming, conversation and information exchange between professionals. Obviously, these aren't being used for gaming.

Many MUDs let users do what they will - if you're in the mood to be dragon-bait, fine; if you would rather converse with users on the other side of the globe, that's fine too.

## According to the *New Hacker's Dictionary*

(a wholly nifty book, edited by Eric Raymond) MUD derives from an artificial intelligence experiment at the University of Essex in the early 1980s. Students on the European academic networks liberated the idea, creating a slew of derivatives with names like **AberMUD**, **VaxMUD** and **LPmUD**. MUDs crossed the Atlantic around 1988 and gained popularity in the United States. A "second wave of MUDs emphasized social interaction, puzzles and cooperative world-building as opposed to combat and competition." Last year, over 50% of MUD sites were of a third major variety, **LPmUD**, which combines the combat and puzzle aspects of **AberMUD** with extensibility. The trend toward greater programmability and flexibility has continued.

As programmers create new types of MUDs, new names appear for the environments. These include **TinyMud**, **DUM**, **MOO**, **MUCK**, **MUG**, and a plethora of others. Although some types of systems are generally used for a certain type of game, the best way to find out what a certain MUD is like is to just connect to it. **TinyMUDs** are usually more socially-



oriented - players gather, chat, meet friends, and discuss things. The LP-family of MUDs are based on role-playing games, so characters spend more time killing monsters, gathering treasure, or otherwise trying to reach some goal. Some MUDs are based on score or level systems - the highest level is usually "wizard." Others - the ones that are more socially-oriented - have no levels or scoring system. (Whoever is in charge, even on social MUDs, gets an ego-boosting title like "god" or "wizard.")

Most MUDs are open to the public: the first time you enter, you are asked for a name and a password. Then, you are dropped into the virtual reality to fend for yourself. What you do then is up to you.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are several very good frequently asked questions and answer (FAQ) files available online that detail MUDs, MUD clients and servers, and a complete, current MUD-list.

The most recent versions of the MUD FAQs are available by anonymous FTP from <ftp.math.okstate.edu> (139.78.10.6) in <pub/muds/misc/mud-faq>, plus on <rtfm.mit.edu> in <pub/usenet/alt.mud.as>:

[<rec.games.mud>]:\_FAQ\_#1\_3:\_MUDs\_and\_M  
UDding  
[<rec.games.mud>]:\_FAQ\_#2\_3:\_MUD\_Clients\_  
and\_Servers  
[<rec.games.mud>]:\_FAQ\_#3\_3:\_RWHO\_and\_  
mudwho\_

In addition, there are a variety of Usenet newsgroups related to MUDs: <rec.games.mud.announce> - Informational articles about MUDs. (Moderated)  
<rec.games.mud.diku> - All about DikuMUDs.  
<rec.games.mud.lp> - Discussions of LPMUD.

<rec.games.mud.moo> - Discussion about MOO (Object Oriented MUD).  
<rec.games.mud.misc> - Various aspects of multi-user computer games.  
<rec.games.mud.tiny> - Discussion of Tiny MUDs, IE MUSH, MUSE and MOO.  
<rec.games.mud.admin>  
Administrative issues of multiuser dungeons.

<alt.mud.german> - For German-speaking mudders.

# LIST OF MUDS

|                   |  |                 |      |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|------|
| Ivory Tower       | <a href="http://marvin.macc.wisc.edu">marvin.macc.wisc.edu</a>               | 144.92.30.207   | 2000 |
| Kain's Estate     | <a href="http://cognac.informatik.uni-kl.de">cognac.informatik.uni-kl.de</a> | 131.246.8.96    | 2000 |
| KoBra             | <a href="http://duteca4.et.udelft.nl">duteca4.et.udelft.nl</a>               | 130.161.144.22  | 8888 |
| Loch Ness         | <a href="http://lochness.i1mp.ch">lochness.i1mp.ch</a>                       | 157.161.1.12    | 2222 |
| Lost Souls        | <a href="http://indigo.1mp.ch">indigo.1mp.ch</a>                             |                 |      |
| LustyMud          | <a href="http://ux.tcs.uh.edu">ux.tcs.uh.edu</a>                             | 129.7.2.110     | 3000 |
| Nameless          | <a href="http://lusty.tamu.edu">lusty.tamu.edu</a>                           | 128.194.9.199   | 2000 |
| NannyMUD          | <a href="http://complex.is">complex.is</a>                                   | 130.208.165.231 | 2000 |
| Nanvaent          | <a href="http://kajsa.lysator.liu.se">kajsa.lysator.liu.se</a>               | 130.236.254.150 | 2000 |
| Nightmare         | <a href="http://corrouc.cs.strath.ac.uk">corrouc.cs.strath.ac.uk</a>         | 130.159.22.8    | 3000 |
| Overdrive         | <a href="http://jericho.connected.com">jericho.connected.com</a>             | 162.148.251.252 | 6000 |
| PaderMUD          | <a href="http://eng3.sequent.com">eng3.sequent.com</a>                       | 138.95.7.14     | 5195 |
| Phoenix           | <a href="http://mud.uni-paderborn.de">mud.uni-paderborn.de</a>               | 131.234.2.42    | 3000 |
| Psycho-thriller   | <a href="http://padermud.uni-paderborn.de">padermud.uni-paderborn.de</a>     |                 |      |
| QUOVADIS          | <a href="http://orlith.bates.edu">orlith.bates.edu</a>                       | 134.181.1.12    | 3500 |
| STYX              | <a href="http://elof.lit.edu">elof.lit.edu</a>                               |                 |      |
| Shadow's Edge     | <a href="http://icarus.montclair.edu">icarus.montclair.edu</a>               | 130.68.1.40     | 3000 |
| The Round Table   | <a href="http://nemesi.1mp.ch">nemesi.1mp.ch</a>                             | 157.161.1.10    | 2345 |
| Tower of Darkness | <a href="http://freedom.nmsu.edu">freedom.nmsu.edu</a>                       | 128.123.1.14    | 3000 |
| TubMUD            | <a href="http://was.chem.psu.edu">was.chem.psu.edu</a>                       | 128.118.30.101  | 2000 |
| Valhalla          | <a href="http://ac.wfunet.wfu.edu">ac.wfunet.wfu.edu</a>                     | 152.17.1.1      | 2222 |
| VikingMUD         | <a href="http://alice.ece.scarolina.edu">alice.ece.scarolina.edu</a>         | 129.252.22.36   | 3000 |
| WanderingMUD      | <a href="http://morgan.cs.tu-berlin.de">morgan.cs.tu-berlin.de</a>           | 130.149.19.20   | 7680 |
|                   | <a href="http://midgard.valhalla.com">midgard.valhalla.com</a>               | 192.187.153.1   | 2444 |
|                   | <a href="http://valhalla.com">valhalla.com</a>                               |                 |      |
|                   | <a href="http://bigblue.pvv.unit.no">bigblue.pvv.unit.no</a>                 | 129.241.36.232  | 2001 |
|                   | <a href="http://ewok.ecn.purdue.edu">ewok.ecn.purdue.edu</a>                 | 128.46.185.89   | 1234 |
|                   |  | 128.46.130.89   |      |
| <b>MOOs</b>       |  |                 |      |
| DragonsFire       | <a href="http://netman.widener.edu">netman.widener.edu</a>                   | 147.31.1.51     | 4444 |
| LambdaMOO         | <a href="http://lambda.parc.xerox.com">lambda.parc.xerox.com</a>             | 13.2.116.36     | 8888 |
| MagicMOO          | <a href="http://dougal.aston.ac.uk">dougal.aston.ac.uk</a>                   | 134.151.36.1    | 7777 |
| OpalMOO           | <a href="http://cc.brynmawr.edu">cc.brynmawr.edu</a>                         | 130.58.85.1     | 7777 |
| <b>TinyMUCKs</b>  |  |                 |      |
| DruidMuck         | <a href="http://freedom.nmsu.edu">freedom.nmsu.edu</a>                       | 128.123.1.14    | 4201 |
| Halcyon           | <a href="http://hobbes.clib.vt.edu">hobbes.clib.vt.edu</a>                   | 132.206.3.32    | 1256 |
| Incarnations      | <a href="http://zippy.sonoma.edu">zippy.sonoma.edu</a>                       | 130.157.2.99    | 4201 |
| Qwest             | <a href="http://betz.blostr.washington.edu">betz.blostr.washington.edu</a>   | 128.95.10.119   | 9999 |
| <b>TinyMUSES</b>  |  |                 |      |
| Rhostshyl         | <a href="http://rhostshyl.cit.cornell.edu">rhostshyl.cit.cornell.edu</a>     | 128.253.180.15  | 4201 |
| TOS TrekMUSE      | <a href="http://siher.stanford.edu">siher.stanford.edu</a>                   | 36.109.0.64     | 1701 |
| TimeMUSE          | <a href="http://ed-ce-034.stanford.edu">ed-ce-034.stanford.edu</a>           |                 |      |
| TrekMUSE          | <a href="http://murren.ai.mit.edu">murren.ai.mit.edu</a>                     | 18.43.0.179     | 4201 |
| VegaMUSE 2        | <a href="http://nebula.lib.vt.edu">nebula.lib.vt.edu</a>                     | 128.173.7.183   | 1701 |
| WindsMUSE         | <a href="http://galileo.sos.clarkson.edu">galileo.sos.clarkson.edu</a>       | 128.153.16.176  | 2095 |
|                   | <a href="http://swrl36.calstate.edu">swrl36.calstate.edu</a>                 | 130.150.102.36  | 4208 |
| <b>TinyMUSHes</b> |  |                 |      |
| ApexMUD           | <a href="http://apex.ccs.yorku.ca">apex.ccs.yorku.ca</a>                     | 130.63.237.12   | 4201 |
| Global MUSH       | <a href="http://lancelot.clb.rochester.edu">lancelot.clb.rochester.edu</a>   | 128.151.220.22  | 4201 |
| ImagECastle       | <a href="http://fogey.stanford.edu">fogey.stanford.edu</a>                   | 36.22.0.31      | 4201 |
| PosseMUSH         | <a href="http://bohr.sos.clarkson.edu">bohr.sos.clarkson.edu</a>             | 128.153.16.134  | 4201 |
| RedStar           | <a href="http://kyriath.cygnus.com">kyriath.cygnus.com</a>                   | 140.174.1.69    | 6666 |
| SillyMush         | <a href="http://zaphod.cs.uwindsor.ca">zaphod.cs.uwindsor.ca</a>             | 137.207.224.3   | 1919 |
| TinyCWRU          | <a href="http://calr2.calsr.cwrn.edu">calr2.calsr.cwrn.edu</a>               | 129.22.24.22    | 4201 |
| ToonMUSH          | <a href="http://hobbes.catt.ncsu.edu">hobbes.catt.ncsu.edu</a>               | 152.1.43.9      | 3000 |
| TrippyMush        | <a href="http://newton.sos.clarkson.edu">newton.sos.clarkson.edu</a>         | 128.153.16.131  | 7567 |
| UK_MUSH           | <a href="http://daves.brunel.ac.uk">daves.brunel.ac.uk</a>                   | 134.83.192.68   | 4201 |
|                   |  | 134.83.128.247  |      |
|                   |  | 134.83.240.6    |      |

# EXAMPLE MUD SESSION

```
$ telnet
telnet> open lambda.parc.xerox.com 8888
```

```
*****
* WELCOME TO LAMBDA MOO * [Long title screen removed for brevity.]
*****
```

```
connect waffle mypassword
```

## The Coat Closet

The closet is a dark, cramped space. It appears to be very crowded in here; you keep bumping into what feels like coats, boots, and other people (apparently sleeping). One useful thing that you've discovered in your bumbling about is a metal doorknob set at waist level into what might be a door.

```
>out
```

You open the closet door and leave the darkness for the living room, closing the door behind you so as not to wake the sleeping people inside. The Living Room It is very bright, open, and airy here, with large plate-glass windows looking southward over the pool to the gardens beyond. On the north wall, there is a rough stonework fireplace. The east and west walls are almost completely covered with large, well-stocked bookcases. An exit in the northwest corner leads to the kitchen and, in a more northerly direction, to the entrance hall. The door into the coat closet is at the north end of the east wall, and at the south end is a sliding glass door leading out onto a wooden deck. There are two sets of couches, one clustered around the fireplace and one with a view out the windows. You see Cockatoo, README for New MOOsers, a fireplace, a newspaper, Welcome Poster, The Daily Whale, LambdaMOO Takes A New Direction, The Carpet, Helpful Person Finder, lag meter, and The Birthday Machine here. SharonStone (out on her feet), DeLiRiUm, Red\_Blob, CyberTec (daydreaming), Xyphus, Azreela, Continuity, and Dottie are here.

```
>emote waves.
```

waffle waves.

Xyphus curtsies ironically to His wafflestly.

```
>look cockatoo
```

A sulphur-crested cockatoo sitting in a cage on top of the mantelpiece. Next to the cage is a container of birdseed, just out of reach of the cockatoo. On top of the cage is a bowl of soapy water and a scrubbing brush, as well as a cloth gag.

```
>feed cockatoo
```

waffle feeds the Cockatoo.

Abraxas waves.

Morpheus appears in a flash of over-the-top special effects. He vanishes again, then returns, strobing rapidly. With a final effort he drags himself into the room. You notice that a copper ring on his right hand is smouldering slightly, and he grins sheepishly at you.

```
>emote waves to Morph.
```

waffle waves to Morph.

Morpheus <— thinking of something interesting to say

```
>eye morph
```

You eye Morpheus warily.

Xyphus kneels down expertly to His Morpheusitude.

```
>north
```

The Entrance Hall

This small foyer is the hub of the currently-occupied portion of the house. To the north are the double doors forming the main entrance to the house. There is a mirror at about head height on the east wall, just to the right of a corridor leading off into the bedroom area. The south wall is all rough stonework, the back of the living room fireplace; at the west end of the wall is the opening leading south into the living room and southwest into the kitchen. Finally, to the west is an open archway leading into the dining room. You see Strasbourg Clock and mirror at about head height here.

```
>sw
```

The Kitchen

The kitchen is of a modern design, very large and well-lit, yet still homey and comfortable. The walls are covered in beautiful natural-wood cabinets and the stove is set into a large 'island' counter in the center of the room. Over the sink, along the south wall, there are windows looking out onto the pool and gardens. At the west end of the room, there is a little breakfast nook with a table and four chairs; beyond it to the west is the family room. There are doors in the north wall leading into the dining room, a sliding glass door to the south, and a doorway in the northeast corner leading out into the entrance hall. You see cookbook, the kitchen sink, a refrigerator, Scraps of Paper, Microwave, cuisinart, dishwasher, carrot, plate of cookies, and a piece of Saran Wrap(tm) here.

```
>open dishwasher
```

It's already open.

```
>enter dishwasher
```

You enter dishwasher.

The interior of a modern dishwasher. Gleaming white plastic, vinyl covered wire racks, and a steaming smell of dish detergent surround you. You see dirty bowl here.

```
>close dishwasher
```

You close dishwasher.

```
>run dishwasher
```

The dishwasher starts. Hot water and dish detergent splatters all around and scalds you; an enormous din of clanking and gurgling deafens you. You're engulfed in clouds of steam and spray. However, you get clean and sterilized.

```
>look
```

The interior of a modern dishwasher. Gleaming white plastic, vinyl covered wire racks, and a steaming smell of dish detergent surround you. You see clean bowl here.



## VIRTUAL REALITY FOR ASTRONOMERS

AstroVR is a virtual reality for astronomers. Its purpose is to facilitate collaboration by giving shared access to data, images, and tools for on-line research and conferencing. AstroVR is based on MOO, a multi-user object-oriented environment. Unlike most MUDs, AstroVR users can work with both text and graphics.

Typically, MUDs are used exclusively for gaming, but Dave Van Buren, at the Caltech/Jet Propulsion Laboratory, feels their potential for applications outside recreation is very real, as they can provide an intuitive interface in a closed "cyberspace."

The idea is to facilitate communications between scientists who are geographically isolated. "Some of the scenarios we wish to support are shared visualization of data with conversation via an audio channel, small group meetings with multimedia display of data and text, and shared use of 'whiteboards' for calculations and sketching ideas," Van Buren said. Also in the works are literature searches and automatic notification when new scientific papers are released.

Scientists in North America and Europe are using AstroVR to share data and notes during observation of a quasar. "Once we have used their project to build a suitable infrastructure, we will open AstroVR to general use by all astronomers, probably within six months," Van Buren said. The system is still experimental. "We think that once a critical mass of functions and users are present, we will see new uses evolve." AstroVR supports Sun workstations running X and requires special software.

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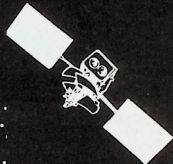
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## SOME OF THE PLANET CONNECT DATA FEEDS:

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MajorNet

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RoseNet

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U'n'Inet

Planet Earth

City 2 City

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SmartNet

Internet/Usenet News Groups

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\*Availability of some net material is subject to net approvals.  
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complete refund less shipping costs if you are not completely satisfied.



[Kevin Savetz is a freelance writer and recovering MUD addict living in Arcata, California. His e-mail address is "savetz@rahul.net" - Editor]

## GUTENBERG LIVES

By Kevin M. Savetz

What if books were free? What if anyone could get a copy of whatever books he or she wanted? Would libraries become extinct? Would bookstores crumble?

When Johann Gutenberg invented movable type in the 1400s, the cost of books plummeted to a fraction of their previous prices, and thousands of hours were saved producing them. For the first time, the general public had access to books.

Michael Hart wants to lead a similar revolution.

In 1971, Michael Hart was given \$100,000,000 in computer time by the operators of the Xerox Sigma V mainframe at the University of Illinois. Hart, in an effort to "earn" his free computer time, typed in the Declaration of Independence and attempted to distribute it across the network Q so everyone could have one.

With that act, Project Gutenberg was born. Today, this nonprofit organization releases electronic text versions of public-domain literature. Their goal is to give away one hundred billion electronic texts by the end of 2001. That is, they hope to release 10,000 titles and distribute each to 100 million people. "There are predicted to be a billion people on the networks by 2001. If we hit 10% of them, that's a trillion," says Hart, Executive Director of Project Gutenberg.

The Project Gutenberg volunteers release an electronic edition of a work a short time after that book reaches the public domain. Each document is in plain-vanilla ASCII, so that everyone using anything from Apples to Z-80s are able to read them. Fancy graphics and text formatting are spurned in favor of small, easily shared documents.

Titles already released include classic literature such as *Aesop's Fables*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Moby Dick*, and works of Shakespeare; Historical

documents such as the Magna Carta, U.S. Declaration of Independence, and the U.S. Constitution; reference books such as *Roget's Thesaurus*, almanacs, census data, the *CIA World Fact Book* and mathematical constants; and religious documents such as the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*.

Why would anyone want to read a book on a computer rather than... well, from a book? "The biggest advantage of electronic books," Michael Hart says, "is they cost about one one-hundredth of what a book costs. If you buy a copy of Alice in Wonderland right now, even in paperback, it will cost at least five bucks. On a 1.44-megabyte floppy, the same book uses a nickel's worth of space."

Because electronic texts (or "e-texts") are stored on a computer, it is much simpler to search a book - or an entire library - for specific information. Research using e-texts is faster and easier than using traditional media. "My favorite example," Hart says, "is a paper I wrote on death and marriage in *Hamlet*, *MacBeth*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Othello*. This is the kind of paper you couldn't even write without a computer. There are too many citations for even a Shakespeare scholar - you would be up to the ceiling in index cards."

"I am hoping - presuming almost, that as books are added to the public domain electronic library, these kinds of papers will be written. Your everyday research paper is 90% research and 10% writing. With e-texts, it will be 10% research and 90% writing the paper," he says. Research using e-texts doesn't require trips to the library and allows more time for thinking about what to write rather than shuffling pages. According to Hart, because the actual research will take less time, researchers will have more time for original thought.

"The term 'exhaustive research' will disappear, because it won't exhaust you anymore," he says. "Painstaking research will be as far in the past as painstaking hand-copying in the monasteries."

Although the idea of reading books on a computer screen may seem far-fetched now, Hart believes that as the cost of storing information and

accessing networks continues to fall, electronic texts will become a standard means of reading and retrieving information. "I'm not saying books are going to completely die out in the next ten years, but this is an idea whose time has come," Hart says.

So far, the volunteer staff has released about 70 texts in electronic form. Hart says the number of volunteers who type or scan books triples every year. There are currently about 200 volunteers. Hart has only met about 5% of them - the rest are network users near and far. For the past three years, the project has released twice the number of books as the previous year. "This doubling curve will get us to our goal of 10,000 books by 2001," Hart says.

Obviously, libraries aren't extinct, yet. Although they are a boon for research and searching, electronic texts do have drawbacks for the casual reader. You can't read one in the bath, and you might hesitate to tote a portable computer with you on public transit, just to catch the last chapter of *Moby Dick*. Still, Hart is betting on the near future, when storage will be cheap, computers will be even more portable, and screens will be easier to read. By the time the 10,000th e-text rolls off the presses in the year 2001, this will be undoubtedly be the case.

One technical problem slowing the release of texts lies in **copyright law**. Unless given specific permission, Project Gutenberg may only reproduce works that are in the public domain - uncopyrighted. Under current copyright law, this means the author needs to have been dead for 50 years. So, don't expect too many best sellers to be given away on the Internet archives.

Although the idea of giving free books to the masses is an honorable one, will Project Gutenberg's efforts have a similar effect to Johann Gutenberg's? Johann's efforts made inexpensive books available to the general public. Project Gutenberg has made books even less expensive - nearly free, even considering transfer time and storage space. However, for the time being, the general public cannot collect on Project Gutenberg's promise because those of us with access to home computers and online services are in the minority. Until everyone uses the Internet or has a CD-ROM drive, Project Gutenberg cannot have the

impact that Johann Gutenberg's movable type did over 500 years ago.

## BOOKS ON CD-ROM

In July, **Walnut Creek CD-ROM** released a CD-ROM containing all of Project Gutenberg's current collection of e-texts. The CD-ROM conforms to ISO-9660, which is the most common and generic format. It will work with almost any system. All the files are in plain vanilla ASCII, so that they can be used with the widest variety of computers and software.

The price is **\$39.95** (plus sales tax in California,) plus \$5 shipping and handling per order. For more information, contact Bob Bruce, Walnut Creek CDROM, 1547 Palos Verdes, Suite 260, Walnut Creek, CA, 94596. (800)786-9907. Or send electronic mail to "orders@cdrom.com".

The company plans to update the CD-ROM with new e-texts every six months. Updates will be available by subscription. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the disc go to Project Gutenberg to help pay for the creation of new e-texts. The company offers a variety of CD-ROMS - for a list, you can FTP the latest catalog from ftp.cdrom.com/cdrom/catalog, or send e-mail to "info@cdrom.com".

[Kevin Savetz is a freelance writer based in Arcata, California. His e-mail address is "savetz@rahul.net". His two cats are of the Cheshire variety - Editor]

## STYLE GUIDES FOR ELECTRONIC MAIL

By Jack Rickard

John Goodwin has written two electronic books on the topic of the Internet that are both available in electronic form. His first work was **EMAIL 101** and serves as an introduction to the Internet and the use of electronic mail. Updated to **version 2.5** this past July, it is addressed primarily toward those in the academic or business communities who may want to use the Internet to communicate, but who may be less than enthralled with the technological magic of it all. It reduces use of basic Internet services to something usable by normal humans with a normal attention span. Technicians may find it a little basic. **EMAIL 101** is avail-

## ACCESSING THE PROJECT GUTENBERG ARCHIVES

For further information or to retrieve electronic books via FTP (the Internet's file transfer protocol,) anonymous FTP directly to the Project Gutenberg archives: mrcnet.cso.uiuc.edu (128.174.201.12). Texts are available in directories sorted by the year of release: etext/text91, etext/text92, and etext/text93. For more information about Project Gutenberg and the current newsletter, look in directory etext/articles.

Project Gutenberg files are available from other FTP sites as well: npln.org (192.55.234.52) in /pub/texts/gutenberg  
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ftp.oes.orst.edu (128.193.124.2) in /pub/almanac/etext  
quake.think.com (192.31.181.1) in /pub/etext91 or /pub/etext92  
simtel20.army.mil or (192.88.110.20) in pd1-cmsdos/books  
wuarhive.wustl.edu (128.252.135.4) in /mirrors/msdos/books

The Almanac Information Server, located at Oregon State University, allows text retrieval via electronic mail. To retrieve a file via e-mail, first send the following line to almanac@oes.orst.edu send gutenberg catalog This will instruct you how to send further requests, and will list the available files. For example, to retrieve Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, send to almanac@oes.orst.edu send gutenberg alice

E-mail questions about Project Gutenberg to: dircomp@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu.

### E-texts released in 1993, in directory /etext/text93:

(Check archive site for current filenames - xxx's denote version numbers which change periodically.)

A Prince of Mars, [Mars #1] ..... pmars100xxx  
Aladdin and the Magic Lamp ..... alad100xxx  
Anne of the Islands ..... illand100xxx  
Black Experience (Coombs) ..... blexp100xxx  
Civil Disobedience, Thoreau ..... civil100xxx  
Clinton's Inaugural Address ..... clintonxxx  
Descartes' Reason Discourse ..... dcant100xxx  
Email 101 by John Goodwin ..... email025xxx  
Gods of Mars, [Mars #2] ..... gmars100xxx  
LOC Workshop on Etexts ..... locet100xxx  
Milton's Paradise Regained ..... rgain100xxx  
NREN, by Jean Armour Polly ..... nren2100xxx  
Pi (circumference/diameter) ..... pimil100xxx  
Red Badge of Courage, Crane ..... badge100xxx  
Surfing the Internet ..... Surf100xxx  
The 32nd Mersenne Prime ..... 32pr100xxx  
The Communist Manifesto ..... mani100xxx  
The Dawn of Amateur Radio ..... radio100xxx  
The First 100,000 Primes ..... primes100xxx  
The Marvelous Land of Oz ..... ozland100xxx  
The Number "e" [Natural Log] ..... ee61000xxx  
The Scarlet Pimpernel ..... scarpi100xxx  
The Square Root of Two ..... dgtles100xxx  
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz ..... wizar100xxx  
The World Factbook ..... world192xxx  
Thuvia, Maid of Mars [M4] ..... mmars100xxx  
Tom Sawyer [Wintetap/Twain] ..... sawy100xxx  
Warlord of Mars, [Mars #3] ..... wmar100xxx  
What Is Man? Mark Twain ..... wman100xxx

### E-texts released in 1992, in directory /etext/text92

1991 CIA World Factbook ..... world91a00x  
A Christmas Carol (Dickens) ..... carol100xxx  
Aesop's Fables (Advantage) ..... aesop100xxx  
Anne of Avonlea ..... avon100xxx  
Anne of Green Gables ..... anne100xxx  
Data From the 1990 Census ..... uscen901xxx  
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde #1 ..... hyde100xxx  
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde #2 ..... hyde2100xxx  
Far From the Madding Crowd ..... crowd100xxx  
Frederick Douglass ..... doug100xxx  
Herland for Mother's Day ..... hrlnd100xxx  
Hitchhiker Internet Guide ..... hngi100xxx  
New Etext of Bible (KJV) ..... bible100xxx  
NorthWestNet NUSIRG Guide ..... nusing100xxx  
O Pioneers! Willa Cather ..... cather100xxx  
Paradise Lost (Rabon) ..... plrabn100xxx  
Song of the Lark (Cather) ..... song100xxx  
Sophocles' Oedipus Trilogy ..... oedip100xxx  
The 1990 US Census (2nd) ..... uscen902xxx  
The Gift of the Magi-O Henry ..... omag100xxx  
The Hackers' Dictionary ..... jargn100xxx  
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow ..... sleep100xxx  
The Scarlet Letter ..... scri100xxx  
The Time Machine-HG Wells ..... time100xxx  
The War of the Worlds-HGW ..... warw100xxx  
Zen & the Art of Internet ..... zen100xxx

### E-texts released in 1991, in directory /etext/text91

1990 CIA World Factbook ..... world12c00x  
Aesop's Fables ..... aesop1100xxx  
Alice in Wonderland ..... alice100xxx  
Moby Dick ..... moby0000xxx  
Paradise Lost ..... pllost1100xxx  
Peter Pan (for US only) ..... peter1400xxx  
Rogers' Thesaurus ..... roget12k00x  
The Book of Mormon ..... mormon11xxx  
The Federalist Papers ..... feder12xxx  
The Hunting of the Shark ..... shark12xxx  
The Song of Hiawatha ..... hisong11xxx  
Through the Looking Glass ..... lglass11xxx



able by ftp at [mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu](ftp://mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu) in the subdirectory /etext/etext93 as file email025.txt.

The second work by Goodwin is actually much more fascinating. Titled **Elements of E-Text Style**, Goodwin asserts that electronic text is not simply print text in electronic form, but a medium in and of itself with characteristics that make it distinct as a means of communication from other mediums such as paper. We found this notion entrancing and Goodwin does a superb job in attempting to define what works and what doesn't in electronic text. More cogently, he actually attempts to define a **standard generalized markup language (SGML)** specifically for editing electronic text and what amounts to the beginnings of a style guide for electronic documents of all kinds, including electronic mail.

We found particularly endearing Goodwin's attempt to avoid throwing the baby out with the bathwater. The temptation is to randomly draw from the universe a whole new set of stylistic dictates according to Goodwin. Rather, he approaches this topic from the perspective that much of what makes good writing is already well defined, and most of it can be applied to electronic text, and here is **HOW** to apply it effectively. But he also provides some interesting ideas as to how they inherently differ, and some solid tips for creating visually attractive screen presentations, electronic forms, and effective business correspondence by electronic mail. In some areas, electronic text communication IS just different due to the fact that boldface type, italics, and so forth just aren't available given the rude tools of the ASCII text that has become the lingua franca online. In **Elements of E-Text Style**, Goodwin attempts to address these shortcomings and provide guidance to those attempting to communicate in an electronic medium largely shorn of the visual cues the printed page so richly provides. We think he did a damn good job of it.

Elements of E-Text Style Version 1.0 was released on 9 August 1993 in the file `estyle10.txt` and is also available by ftp at [mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu](ftp://mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu) in the subdirectory /etext/etext93. Contact John E. Goodwin, P.O. Box 6022, St. Charles, IL 60174; [jegoodwin@delphi.com](mailto:jegoodwin@delphi.com)

## PRODIGY JOINS THE INTERNET

By Jack Rickard

The last bastion of electronic mail isolation fell in July 1993. Prodigy Services Corporation, after months of testing and troubleshooting, opened their electronic mail gateway to the Internet allowing some 5000 callers to participate in a wide beta testing program exchange electronic mail on a global basis with correspondents from 137 countries connected to the domain name electronic mail delivery system. Prodigy callers can be reached via their Prodigy logon ID @PRODIGY.COM and can reply.

More and better, the connection is NOT limited to the six screens Prodigy messages have historically been limited to. According to Prodigy technical personnel, the functional limit on message size would be about 60KB - actually larger than the assumed convention in the Internet of 50 KB. Internet mail requires the use of a new offline utility called the **Prodigy Mail Manager** that allows callers to create or review their mail offline, and connect to the service to do a mail exchange. Messages entered in this way carry a **\$0.15 charge per message** above the normal 30 message monthly allotment, as opposed to the higher \$0.25 charge for additional messages entered online. This should encourage the use of offline mail, but for the Internet connection, it also allows much larger messages. There is NO specific additional charge for Internet messages.

The system is currently in beta test with about 5000 users who basically join the beta team by looking interested and asking about it. According to Michael Greenbaum, the program should be open to all Prodigy users before year's end.

The service peaked at about 2.1 million users in the spring of 1993. They introduced per hour charges this summer ranging from \$3.60 per hour to \$4.80 per hour and their user base did dip a bit, according to Prodigy spokesman Brian Eck. But as of the end of August, they had just lipped over the 2 million user mark again and were climbing.

Prodigy gateways their Internet mail via IBM/MCI subsidiary **ANS CORE**,

which provides Internet connectivity to a number of large organizations nationwide. And even among the 5000 beta testers, the e-mail traffic to the Internet is already climbing.

To address mail to a Prodigy member, basically you need their user ID (ours is HRMG23C for example). To address, simply append **PRODIGY.COM** to the user ID as in **HRMG23C@PRODIGY.COM**.

The addition of Prodigy's approximately 2 million members represents the largest single number of electronic mail boxes added to the Internet in one move in history. More importantly, it represents addition of the last major remaining electronic mail island to the global electronic mail community. Welcome to the club, Prodigy members. Prodigy Services Company, 445 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601; (914)993-8000.

## CONNECTING BULLETIN BOARDS TO THE INTERNET - WILDCAT JOINS THE RANKS

by Jack Rickard

On September 15, 1993, **Mustang Software**, developers of the **Wildcat! LAN based Bulletin Board** system and the **QmodemPro** communications program announced a new program to link their popular **Wildcat!** package to the Internet via the **Unix to Unix Copy Program (UUCP)** dialup connections.

The new program, titled **wcUUCP**, was shown for the first time at **ONE BBSCON** in August and was very well received by crowds in a frenzy for Internet connectivity. The **wcUUCP** gateway program allows Internet e-mail as well as **Usenet News Groups** to be imported directly into a **Wildcat! BBS**.

"We realize there are thousands of people who would like to have access to the Internet for both public and private mail but don't have an easy way to do so. Our new gateway will allow any **Wildcat!** system operator the opportunity to provide easy access to the Internet, to their BBS callers. The end result is, more individual users will have access to the Internet than ever before," said Jim Harner, Mustang's President and CEO.

Mustang has been very progressive in the past with gateway utilities to con-

nect Wildcat to the Novell MHS message system, CompuServe, and others. Additionally, their QmodemPro terminal program actually serves as one of the best e-mail management databases available with automated facilities for exchanging mail with MCI, CompuServe, and any BBS supporting QWK mail functions. Now, the company has gated their own support system to the Internet as mustang.com. Jim Harrer is now jim.harrer@mustang.com - easy enough to remember.

The interface is relatively transparent to the user, with mail appearing in the UUCP-Email message conference and appearing nearly enough as local BBS mail. The gateway includes a UUCICO communications program to actually make the call to the Internet service provider to exchange mail. No additional third party programs or utilities are required to carry mail and newsgroups. The product is listed at \$299 but Mustang is introducing it at \$99 until October 31.

"The Internet is rapidly becoming the standard electronic e-mail highway. Having an address on the Internet basically allows you to communicate with anyone with an e-mail account, even CompuServe, MCI E-Mail and Prodigy users. It's simply awesome," said Harrer. "We estimate over a million users log into any one of our 22,000 Wildcat! Bulletin Board Systems worldwide. I suspect many of them will be communicating via the Internet very soon." Mustang Software, Inc., P.O. Box 2264, Bakersfield, CA 93303; (805)395-0223 voice; (805)395-0713 fax; (805)395-0650 BBS; Internet jim.harrer@mustang.com; MCI MUSTANG; CompuServe 76004,1552.

## HOST SERVICES OFFERING INTERNET UUCP ACCOUNTS

By Jack Rickard

One of the items coming out of ONE BBSCon was a clear movement among electronic bulletin boards to make the connection to the Internet, and most of the interest was directed at UUCP dialup accounts to simply swap electronic mail and Usenet News Groups. These accounts allow you to dial up via modem, usually at a 14,400 bps rate, and exchange mail using the Unix to

```

From : JANICE.STEVENS@RAINET.COM      Number : 35 of 85
To : WESTON FRYATT                   Date : 08/23/93 4:12p
Subject: test                         Reference : NONE
Read : 08/20/93 12:01p               Private : YES
Conf : 035 - Internet-EMAIL

From: janice.stevens@rainet.com
Subject: test
Date: Thu, 19 Aug 1993 16:22:31 GMT
To: weston.fryatt
Message-Id: <9308191124101@rainet.com>

The Wildcat! wCUUCP gateway seems to be working just great here. It
handles E-mail, newsgroups, and even Unencoded and Undecoded file
attachments.

Janice

Read mode : C35 +
Msg Read (1-95) [E]dit, [F]orward, [H]elp, [K]ill, [N]onstop,
[P]rint, [Q]uit, [R]eply, [S]ysop, [I]hread, [ENTER] = next? _

RICK HEMING, Mustang Software, Inc (Local)      Page 9/60
Phone: 805-395-0223      Age: 43      Mode: 21      Sec: STAFF      MSG9.BBS      Line 995

```

## Wildcat! wCUUCP gateway connection.

**Unix Copy Program (UUCP) g protocol.** This is the least expensive way to connect your local BBS message base to the domain name e-mail system, and while some bulletin boards are experimenting with full Internet Protocol connections, most bulletin boards simply want to allow their callers to send and receive mail. Additionally, there are Windows mail packages and other mail utilities appearing that allow individual callers to exchange mail using the UUCP g protocol in an automated fashion. But the big question of the day seems to be "Where do I get a UUCP account?"

Good question. And the answer is extraordinarily variable with regards to price and geographic location. So we've assembled our best initial effort at producing a modest list of services we know for a fact offer UUCP dialup accounts. We will add this to our bevy of "standing" lists in Boardwatch and publish it each month. We do not claim that it is currently all-inclusive or even comprehensive, these are simply services we know of that do offer UUCP dialup accounts in some fashion or other. We will add to this list as we discover other service providers offering UUCP dialup accounts. If you know of a good host provider not listed, by all means drop us a note.

Meanwhile, for those interested in IP connectivity, caller accounts, etc. a service titled Internet Network Information Center, created by General Atomic and AT&T under contract to the National Science Foundation, provides a great deal of information about the Internet, and they maintain a very large list of

**Internet Service Providers** of all kinds. They maintain a U.S. list, a Canadian List, one for Pacific Rim locations, Eastern Block, and Germany. You can telnet to ds.internic.net and enter GOPHER at the command line to run their gopher information program. Item 2 on the main menu will lead you to lists of host service providers.

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(619) 566-0328 Compucom  
(619) 566-3786 Zyxel

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award-winning Giffy Girls

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Don't like long distance?  
Call (800) GIFFY-69 Voice (\$49.00 + SH)

Classified Connection  
9028 Miramar Rd. Ste. 277  
San Diego, CA 92126



# Internet UUCP Host List

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
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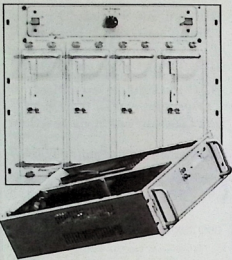


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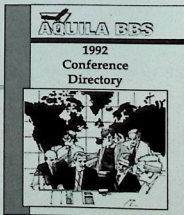
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The AQUILA BBS Team (Left to right: Kevin & Kristy Behrens, Steve Williams, Chris Babb)

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## DIRECT DIAL

### TRAVEL BROCHURE BBS

by Jack Rickard

Jeff Mohr and a company named **WorldWide Brochures** have put together a fascinating system in **Detroit Lakes Minnesota**. Titled **WorldWide Brochures**, the system operates at **(218)847-3027** using **RBBS-PC v 17.4** software.

The travel industry has grown enormously - to the point that they are a major consumer of printing services. Many resorts and tour companies produce beautiful four-color brochures that amount in some cases to catalogs. **WorldWide Brochures** has developed a system online allowing callers to search a fantastic database of travel destinations, events, and attractions using

a very simple keyword search function. Callers can then "order" these entirely free brochures and the system notifies the company that they should ship the brochure by mail to the caller.

The key to such special topic databases is of course the mass of items available. **WWB** lists some 9,500 free maps and brochures covering 10,000 destinations you can have mailed to you simply by tickling the keyboard. We entered **PHILIPPINES** and got a listing of 69 companies offering various tour services. See and Sea Travel has a 20 page scuba diving tour brochure. We entered **COLORADO** and got a massive listing of 424 entries covering wilderness tours, white water rafting, kayaking, and so forth.

To view all this is free. To actually get the brochures mailed, you have to subscribe to the system at a very reasonable \$12 per year. They also offer a standalone software program with much of this information for \$19 plus \$3 shipping, and from the local messages, a number of travel agents are raving about the program. **WorldWide Brochures**, 1227 Kenneth St., **Detroit Lakes, MN 56501**; **(800)852-6752** voice; **(218)847-1694** international; **(218)847-7090** fax; **(218)847-3027** BBS.

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## THIS MONTH: SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA BULLETIN BOARDS

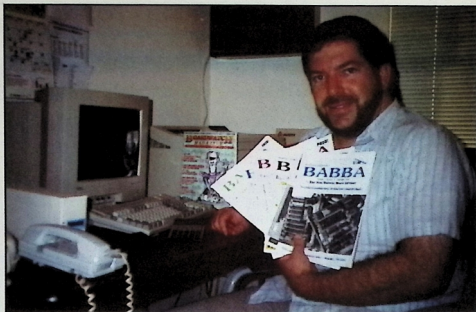
by Jack Rickard

**S**hades of Boardwatch 1987 - it's *vu deja* all over again. The San Francisco Bay area is one of the most intensely active areas in the world for BBS activity with an estimated 1,000 bulletin boards in operation. And Mark Shapiro has put together a marvelous little monthly newsletter covering the scene. Titled **Bay Area Bulletin Board Advisor**, or **BABBA**, this is a free publication distributed in computer and book stores in the area and currently lists some 300 electronic bulletin boards operating in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Shapiro notes that a number of regional computer magazines had BBS lists, and with the decline in ad revenues over the past year or so they had downsized space devoted to the topic to the point where BBS lists were both Spartan and done in tiny type that was hard to read. A BBS operator, he decided to launch a publication devoted specifically to Bay Area bulletin boards as a free advertising-supported monthly. Their first issue was in March of this year and the book is catching on in the Bay area with some 30,000 copies per issue currently in distribution.

Their third issue was May 1993 and stood 40 pages tall. We first encountered the publication at **ONE BBSCON** where one of the attendees described it as an "early *Boardwatch*". Not only did it contain one of the most detailed verified BBS lists we've ever encountered, but numerous articles on using modems, BBS door games, explanations of various BBS networks, and so on. A 6 issue subscription to **BABBA** costs \$18. For the most part, it is advertising supported.

Shapiro does run a contact BBS for the magazine titled the **BABBABBS** at (408)946-5642. (He also operates the **Berryessa Central BBS**, which is the backup alternative BBS, at (408)946-8592.) Bay area operators can call this system and download the form **BABSYSOP.FRM** to register their BBS. The list itself is not currently available online, but you



Mark Shapiro - **BABBA**

can order the magazine online, and we have included it in our list of listkeepers. Shapiro generously allowed us to reproduce their latest selected BBS listing containing 300 Bay Area bulletin board systems in this issue of *Boardwatch*. The list is not comprehensive, and in fact Shapiro is somewhat selective as to which BBSs he lists. Pirate, rude, or marginal BBSs simply don't make the list. But each number is dialed and verified.

We do note a couple of interesting features about the Bay Area community extracted from Shapiro's work. First, they have moved to high speed modems in a very big way with 199 of the 300 listed systems sporting 14,400 bps modems and an additional 39 systems listed

at 9600 bps.

And it appears to be a *Wildcat* kind of town with 74 systems or 24.66% of the services running **Mustang Software's Wildcat!** BBS. The second slot belongs to *Spitfire* at 27 systems.

The names of BBSs continue to intrigue us, and the bay area seems to have its share of amazing titles. The *Roadkill Grill* caught our eye - the sysop is listed as **The Chef**. Steve Ruben runs the **Canned Ham BBS** and claims it is the only **SPAM** powered BBS in the San Jose area. **My Scummy Run-Down Hovel** sounds **REAL** inviting. John Giever's **The Moose is Loose BBS** and Kevin Brokaw's **Walden Puddle** sounded interesting as well.

Mark Shapiro, Bay Area Bulletin Board Advisor (**BABBA**), P.O. Box 360588, Milpitas, CA 95036; (408)946-3823 voice; (408)946-5331 fax; (408)946-5642 BBS; babba@netcom.com.

### Software in Use Breakdown:

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| Spitfire      | 27 |
| PCBoard       | 26 |
| MajorBBS      | 15 |
| VBBS          | 13 |
| Renegade      | 12 |
| TBBS          | 9  |
| Remote Access | 9  |
| WWIV          | 9  |
| Telegard      | 9  |

### TeleConfusion?...



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| Alien              | (415)359-8774 | 14400 | BBSBBS    | Sydney          | Pacificia         |
| Almaden File Exch. | (408)997-0753 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Mike Dexter     | San Jose          |
| AlphaComplex       | (408)377-4570 | 9600  | VBBS      | The Computer    | Campbell          |
| Amigroid           | (408)683-2534 | 14400 | StarNet   | John Sanders    | San Martin        |
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| AnyBody's          | (510)494-0122 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Kevin Sibley    | Fremont           |
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| Back Board         | (408)226-3780 | 14400 | 2nd Sight | Gary LaVoy      | San Jose          |
| Back Door          | (415)756-6238 | 14400 | TBBS      | Ken Braun       | San Francisco     |
| BackDrop           | (415)431-8169 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Robin Roberts   | San Francisco     |
| Backyard Fence     | (408)997-1679 | 2400  | Renegade  | Cattail         | San Francisco     |
| BayNar-Net         | (408)926-8547 | 2400  | Wildcat   | Phil Hayton     | San Jose          |
| Beggar's Tomb      | (408)243-8662 | 2400  | Wildcat   | Grim Reaper     | San Jose          |
| Berkeley WWIV      | (510)486-0795 | 2400  | WWIV      | Walter Wood     | East Bay Area     |
| Berryessa Central  | (408)946-6592 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Mark Shapiro    | San Jose          |
| Big Dogs           | (408)249-5037 | 2400  | RemoteAcc | Bruce Maxwell   | San Jose          |
| Black Rose         | (707)557-6444 | 2400  | Image     | Capt. Keelhaul  | Valejo            |
| Black Shadow       | (408)248-3823 | 1200  | VBBS      | Lightning Seed  | San Jose          |
| Blue Caller        | (408)379-0547 | 2400  | Wildcat   | Robert Baker    | Campbell          |
| Blue Smoke         | (408)265-4660 | 14400 | RemoteAcc | Masque          | San Jose          |
| Boneyard           | (408)738-6616 | 9600  | PCBoard   | Kenny Jones     | Sunnyvale         |
| Bordello           | (707)422-9337 | 14400 | RemoteAcc | Don Juan        | Fairfield         |
| Bust Out BBS       | (510)888-1443 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Out Riggs       | Hayward           |
| Calif. Con. Party  | (415)927-2739 | 2400  | DLX       | Alan            | Corte Madera      |
| Camphor            | (510)547-5741 | 2400  | Telegard  | Linda Martin    | East Bay Area     |
| Canned Ham         | (408)971-8530 | 9600  | Waffle    | Steve Rubin     | San Jose          |
| CardBoard BBS      | (408)980-8204 | 14400 | TBBS      | Darryl Perry    | San Jose          |
| Career Connection  | (415)917-2129 | 14400 | TBBS      | Sysop           | Los Altos         |
| Careers Online     | (408)248-7029 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Sysop           | San Jose          |
| Centennial         | (707)644-2161 | 14400 | TAG       | Rob Hayashida   | Valejo            |
| Chamber II         | (408)336-5325 | 14400 | RemoteAcc | Drew Roberts    | Ben Lomand        |
| City Connection    | (408)272-3332 | 14400 | 1st Class | Robert Kim      | San Jose          |
| Closet Door        | (408)736-8069 | 14400 | FoReM ST  | Steve Rider     | Sunnyvale         |
| Club California    | (510)724-5755 | 14400 | C-Net Pro | Rand Al' Thor   | El Sobrante       |
| Clubhouse          | (510)785-1123 | 14400 | EZYcom    | Tim Wilcox      | Hayward           |
| Co-Ed Associates   | (510)938-9470 | 14400 | Auntie    | Werner Gumpert  | Walnut Creek      |
| Coccyus Lounge     | (408)241-9666 | 14400 | VBBS      | Jimco & Bassman | San Jose          |
| Code Room          | (408)266-3818 | 14400 | FornaxNET | Ramin Akbari    | San Jose          |
| Code Three         | (510)799-2921 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Kim Leong       | Hercules          |
| Community Access   | (510)777-1314 | 9600  | PowerBBSW | Mark Liddington | Antioch           |
| Computer Tyne      | (408)984-8973 | 2400  | GAP       | Gary Araki      | San Jose          |
| Contractors Exch.  | (415)334-7393 | 2400  | Tri-BBS   | George Salet    | San Francisco     |
| CPU                | (408)281-0725 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Scott Brown     | San Jose          |
| Creskaside         | (415)334-5692 | 14400 | GT Power  | Joe Stienet     | San Mateo         |
| Crime Bytes        | (408)267-8399 | 2400  | Michtron  | Sysop           | San Jose          |
| Cutting Edge       | (415)751-0588 | 14400 | Major     | Sysop           | San Francisco     |
| CyberPort          | (408)227-1635 | 2400  | VBBS      | Tanis           | San Jose          |
| D-World            | (408)247-8935 | 2400  | Telegard  | Meloman         | San Jose          |
| Daddy's Hideout    | (510)779-0291 | 14400 | GT Power  | Rich Bogut      | Antioch           |
| Dancing BBS        | (408)946-9077 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Sean Stryker    | San Jose          |
| Data Port          | (408)259-3019 | 14400 | Maximus/2 | Ian Robertson   | San Jose          |
| DC To Light        | (408)262-5150 | 9600  | PCBoard   | Fred Townsend   | San Jose          |
| Delta Junction     | (408)246-3809 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Rob Bjorklund   | San Jose          |
| DEMON              | (408)264-9018 | 14400 | PCBoard   | John Taber      | San Jose          |
| Devoland           | (408)263-7980 | 9600  | Spitfire  | Sysop           | San Jose          |
| DICE               | (408)727-3423 | 2400  | Spitfire  | Sysop           | San Jose          |
| Digicom            | (408)262-1412 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Dave            | San Jose          |
| Digikron           | (408)253-1309 | 14400 | 2nd Sight | Douglas Thom    | San Jose          |
| Digital Media      | (510)438-9049 | 14400 | VBBS      | Eric Dawson     | Fremont           |
| Dimension Y?       | (408)226-6150 | 14400 | Renegade  | Thorin          | San Jose          |
| Diogenes           | (510)689-3785 | 2400  | WWIV      | Wanda Takabath  | Concord           |
| Dis Iz Dis         | (408)227-1583 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Mike Downie     | San Jose          |
| Dobbs              | (707)427-0277 | 9600  | UltraBBS  | Chuck Dobbs     | Fairfield         |
| Dragon's Lair      | (707)437-2131 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Xamp Windrider  | Fairfield         |
| Driven Element     | (408)267-2335 | 14400 | FeatherNT | Mike Delaney    | San Jose          |





# San Francisco Bay Area Bulletin Boards

| Title              | Phone         | BPS   | Software  | Sysop           | City             |
|--------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| DVPCUG             | (510)943-6238 | 14400 | TBBS      | Henery Shaw     | Walnut Creek     |
| Eagles Dreams      | (415)693-0805 | 2400  | Roboboard | Mark Gronquist  | San Francisco    |
| Edge               | (408)298-2053 | 14400 | Wildcat   | File Runner     | San Jose         |
| ERS                | (408)255-7085 | 9600  | TBBS      | Frank Neyhe     | San Jose         |
| Eight Bit Apple    | (510)294-8052 | 2400  | Prime     | Noel Anklam     | Livermore        |
| El Cerrito Police  | (510)235-3273 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Bill Guggermos  | Richmond         |
| Electric Magazine  | (707)961-0735 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Robert Shannon  | Fort Bragg       |
| ElectricPage       | (408)253-4280 | 2400  | Custom    | Contemp. Comm.  | San Jose         |
| EMZ                | (510)886-3567 | 14400 | TAG       | Prime Director  | Hayward          |
| Eng.-TEC           | (408)265-3353 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Robert Griffith | San Jose         |
| Entropic Sanctum   | (510)794-8586 | 14400 | Roboboard | The Oracle      | Fremont          |
| Escape OtherW      | (408)956-1750 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Brett Frymire   | San Jose         |
| EYE's on the SKY's | (510)443-6146 | 9600  | Spitfire  | Mike Rushford   | Sacramento       |
| Family             | (916)334-4753 | 14400 | Maximus/2 | George McLam    | San Jose         |
| Family Circus      | (408)926-0470 | 9600  | Wildcat   | William Lade    | San Jose         |
| Faxmachine         | (408)295-7526 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Yamato          | San Jose         |
| Fear Factory       | (408)264-9938 | 14400 | Renegade  | FishMaster      | San Jose         |
| FlyingDutchman     | (408)286-5701 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Chris Van Motz  | San Jose         |
| Four Wheel/Off RD  | (510)228-2960 | 2400  | WWIV      | Mambo Man       | Martinez         |
| Fox Hole           | (415)875-4196 | 14400 | Roboboard | Chuck Spear     | S. San Francisco |
| Fred Haney         | (510)792-5119 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Fred Haney      | Fremont          |
| FremontFree        | (510)623-9347 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Roger Scott     | Fremont          |
| Friendly BBS       | (510)636-1597 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Jim Escue       | East Bay Area    |
| Fun Seekers        | (408)379-0958 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Sysop           | Campbell         |
| Fun University Net | (415)327-4591 | 14400 | Major     | Sysop           | Palo Alto        |
| FunFut             | (510)743-9935 | 14400 | Maximus/2 | Scott Campbell  | Danville         |
| FUNHUG             | (510)713-7944 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Frank Carreiro  | Fremont          |
| Future-Com         | (408)452-0525 | 14400 | RemoteAcc | Steve Kong      | San Jose         |
| FuzzyNet           | (408)428-1883 | 14400 | TBBS      | Sysop           | San Jose         |
| G.A.D.M.           | (510)581-3019 | 14400 | TBBS      | Dave Gentry     | Hayward          |
| Galaxy 486         | (408)464-3225 | 2400  | Wildcat   | Ernie Blattner  | Santa Cruz       |
| Garg               | (408)378-5108 | 14400 | Waffle    | Bob Van Cleef   | Campbell         |
| GDOS Techline      | (408)422-5684 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Gary Doda       | Salinas          |
| Genesis/Mookie's   | (408)942-1984 | 14400 | Waffle    | Steve           | San Jose         |
| Glamonic           | (408)445-1203 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Sysop           | San Jose         |
| Glory Board        | (408)247-8740 | 9600  | Wildcat   | Danny Youngs    | San Jose         |
| GMV-BBS            | (510)294-9052 | 9600  | Major     | Sysop           | Livermore        |
| Gooberville        | (408)376-0413 | 9600  | Renegade  | Terabyte        | Campbell         |
| Good Investment    | (510)417-0444 | 9600  | RBBS      | Mark Welch      | Pleasanton       |
| Grateful Med       | (510)689-0347 | 14400 | Telegraph | TC Dufresne     | Concord          |
| Graveyard Shift    | (415)923-9060 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Rabid Dog       | San Francisco    |
| Ground Zero        | (415)969-4143 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Jerry Hubbard   | Mountain View    |
| GS Express         | (408)259-7645 | 9600  | GBBS      | Tony Andrews    | San Jose         |
| GUI                | (707)747-4761 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Tony Regina     | Benicia          |
| Halibut            | (415)961-9635 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Marge Smith     | Mountain View    |
| Haltek Electronics | (415)969-6321 | 9600  | PCBoard   | Greg Creech     | Mountain View    |
| Harpers Inn        | (408)734-9448 | 14400 | Telegraph | Bugs            | Sunnyvale        |
| HeartBeat Earth    | (408)257-2306 | 2400  | Wildcat   | Marcus Johnson  | San Jose         |
| High Power         | (408)737-7040 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Bob Jacobson    | Sunnyvale        |
| Hip-Hop            | (408)773-0768 | 14400 | XBBS      | David Black     | Sunnyvale        |
| Hispanic On-Line   | (415)252-0285 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Juan Lira       | San Francisco    |
| Hiltman Hideout    | (510)795-8250 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Mr. Stacy Haven | Fremont          |
| Holodeck           | (408)248-0869 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Sysop           | San Jose         |
| Holy Streets       | (510)651-6243 | 14400 | Renegade  | Interceptor     | Fremont          |
| Homebase           | (408)988-4204 | 14400 | TBBS      | Aryeh Goretzky  | San Jose         |
| Hungry I           | (408)225-4401 | 14400 | VBBS      | THOR            | San Jose         |
| Iguana             | (408)733-8626 | 14400 | 1st Class | Hank Mollenaue  | Sunnyvale        |
| In Living Color    | (415)585-7579 | 14400 | Telegraph | Honey D. Clown  | San Francisco    |
| Incipits Remote    | (415)359-2067 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Jon Syrtad      | Pacific          |
| Inferno            | (408)225-2428 | 2400  | Major     | Mark Cinelli    | San Jose         |
| Info-Net           | (510)795-4287 | 14400 | Wildcat   | CDROMS Unlimit  | Fremont          |
| Info. EXchange     | (415)282-3824 | 14400 | Telegraph | Aztek #1        | San Francisco    |
| InfoDude Comm.     | (415)855-9500 | 14400 | Major     | InfoDude        | Palo Alto        |
| Interactions       | (510)832-0560 | 2400  | DLX       | Cla Watson      | East Bay Area    |
| Israeli Byte       | (415)550-1318 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Edahn Golan     | San Francisco    |
| JDR Microdevices   | (408)559-0253 | 9600  | Wildcat   | Patrick Powers  | Campbell         |
| Knight Court       | (510)946-1049 | 14400 | SearchLit | Eric Kemper     | Walnut Creek     |
| Krypt              | (510)447-4623 | 14400 | Roboboard | Donovan         | Livermore        |
| L & B Sharing      | (510)530-5499 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Brian Gorecki   | East Bay Area    |
| LAN's End          | (408)944-0510 | 14400 | Fido      | Robert Spiveck  | San Jose         |
| Laser Light        | (408)496-0771 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Robert Mueller  | San Jose         |
| LaserBoard         | (408)268-4863 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Shawn Higin     | San Jose         |
| Liberty            | (415)390-8734 | 2400  | Major     | John Galt       | Mountain View    |
| Liberty Bell       | (408)243-1933 | 2400  | Fido      | Scott Lieberman | San Jose         |
| LightWaved         | (510)228-0886 | 9600  | VBBS      | D.L. Smith      | Martinez         |



# San Francisco Bay Area Bulletin Boards

| Title             | Phone         | BPS   | Software  | Sysop           | City          |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| Livermore Police  | (510)373-5319 | 9600  | Wildcat   | Lance Bye       | Livermore     |
| Loft              | (408)229-8166 | 14400 | PowrBBS   | Denny Costello  | San Jose      |
| Lounge            | (510)825-7268 | 14400 | VBBS      | Chase           | Concord       |
| LZ/Nightline      | (510)273-7830 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Jon Mankowski   | East Bay Area |
| Magic Kingdom     | (408)245-3961 | 2400  | Major     | Sysop           | Sunnyvale     |
| MailStop          | (408)257-1919 | 9600  | Waffle    | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| Major Comm.       | (510)494-8502 | 2400  | Major     | Dave            | Fremont       |
| Maria Zone        | (408)988-0790 | 9600  | RemoteAcc | Darin Thurman   | San Jose      |
| Meeting Place     | (408)928-6174 | 14400 | Oracomm   | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| Megamedia         | (408)428-9901 | 14400 | PowerBrd  | Raaj Menon      | San Jose      |
| Micro Exchange    | (707)833-4026 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Andrew Stark    | Kenwood       |
| Micro-Medic       | (408)280-1610 | 14400 | Waffle    | Duane Davis     | San Jose      |
| Midnight Caller   | (510)757-2534 | 2400  | WWIV      | Midnight Caller | Antioch       |
| Mike's Place      | (707)447-3804 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Mike Starnbaugh | Vacaville     |
| Mongoose BBS      | (408)733-3034 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Rob Yagmourian  | Sunnyvale     |
| Monterey Gaming   | (408)855-5555 | 14400 | CustomMGS | SysAdmin Lisa   | Monterey      |
| Moon Base HQ      | (408)248-3555 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Reed & Tina     | San Jose      |
| Moonlit Knight    | (408)244-3459 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Allen Woolley   | San Jose      |
| Moose Is Loose    | (408)773-9573 | 14400 | Auntie    | John Giever     | Sunnyvale     |
| Moses Computers   | (408)358-3153 | 2400  | Wildcat   | Terry Ausdall   | Los Gatos     |
| Mr. Natural's     | (408)338-7151 | 14400 | MegaHost  | Mr. Natural     | Boulder Creek |
| Mud Hole          | (408)865-1647 | 14400 | RemoteAcc | The Muddy One   | San Jose      |
| Mustang Ranch     | (408)238-1681 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Rory Liu        | San Jose      |
| My Hovel          | (408)578-7954 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Pondscum Muck   | San Jose      |
| Mycroft Systems   | (408)927-0105 | 2400  | Spitfire  | Mycroft         | San Jose      |
| Mysterious Powers | (408)738-2034 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Dan Powers      | Sunnyvale     |
| Nasty Playmates   | (408)374-2627 | 2400  | Major     | Eric & Lisa     | Campbell      |
| Nebula            | (408)738-4679 | 14400 | FeatherNt | Sysop           | Sunnyvale     |
| New Way           | (510)790-7355 | 9600  | Wildcat   | Skull Rider     | Fremont       |
| Night Watch       | (408)249-0808 | 2400  | Major     | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| NiteLight         | (415)965-8365 | 9600  | Wildcat   | Byron McKay     | Mountain View |
| North STAR        | (408)247-7827 | 14400 | RemoteAcc | John Bradley    | San Jose      |
| NVR Board         | (408)267-4688 | 14400 | Renegade  | Brian Kay       | San Jose      |
| Ocean view        | (415)359-2251 | 14400 | VBBS      | BBQ Man         | Pacifico      |
| OneNet Los Altos  | (415)948-1349 | 9600  | 1st Class | Scott Converse  | Los Altos     |
| Orchid            | (510)683-0327 | 9600  | Major     | Sysop           | Fremont       |
| Orian             | (510)447-1060 | 9600  | Telecard  | Shaun Coleman   | Livermore     |
| Our House         | (415)578-0495 | 14400 | RBBS      | Brian Collins   | San Mateo     |
| ouT therE         | (408)263-2248 | 9600  | Wildcat   | Charles Cassle  | San Jose      |
| Pacific Exchange  | (408)946-8561 | 14400 | Major     | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| Paradise          | (408)280-6630 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Jim Reed        | San Jose      |
| Party Warehouse   | (510)256-9809 | 14400 | VBBS      | Party Master    | Walnut Creek  |
| Paul's BBS        | (510)283-6145 | 14400 | PCPLUshst | Sysop           | Lafayette     |
| PC-SIG            | (408)524-9835 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Joseph Nguyen   | Sunnyvale     |
| PereLine          | (408)364-2789 | 14400 | PCBoard   | Tom Serface     | Campbell      |
| Phoenix Islands   | (408)270-4077 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Phan Tran       | San Jose      |
| Phosphor          | (510)794-6401 | 14400 | Major     | Glenn Sanders   | Fremont       |
| PIE               | (408)733-4670 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Clay Walker     | Sunnyvale     |
| PIM Data Line     | (408)448-3060 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Wayne Brown     | San Jose      |
| Pittsburg Pirates | (510)432-2927 | 14400 | OMNI 128  | Stowhand        | Pittsburg     |
| Play-Jour         | (510)623-1448 | 9600  | Maximus/2 | Bill Faust      | Fremont       |
| Portal            | (408)973-8091 | 14400 | Custom    | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| Powder Keg        | (707)427-1310 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Peter Nesbitt   | Fairfield     |
| Praise Chapel     | (408)747-0192 | 2400  | TAG       | Jason           | Sunnyvale     |
| Prog. Corner      | (707)765-1431 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Randy Just      | Petaluma      |
| Prog. Playground  | (707)434-8557 | 14400 | Maximus/2 | Trevor Merrit   | Fairfield     |
| Public Image      | (510)831-3634 | 14400 | VBBS      | Zapo Zapper     | Danville      |
| Pyre              | (408)226-2889 | 14400 | VBBS      | Phoenix         | San Jose      |
| Q-BASIC           | (408)371-1577 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Carlos Chitiva  | Campbell      |
| Quickpath Systems | (510)440-7284 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Sysop           | Fremont       |
| Real Estate       | (408)956-1961 | 2400  | Custom    | Bill Alden      | San Jose      |
| Ring Of Fire      | (408)739-8753 | 9600  | Wildcat   | Bill Strouse    | Sunnyvale     |
| Rising Storm      | (408)739-8693 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Kirk DeHaan     | Sunnyvale     |
| Risque Business   | (408)776-1841 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Jim             | Morgan Hill   |
| Roadkill Grill    | (408)985-0213 | 14400 | Renegade  | The Chef        | San Jose      |
| Rocking Chair     | (415)364-7884 | 14400 | Spitfire  | Frank Crispell  | Redwood City  |
| Russian           | (510)651-6809 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Alex Alshvang   | Fremont       |
| S.J. Advisor      | (408)274-6004 | 2400  | Wildcat   | John Messina    | San Jose      |
| San Jose Connect. | (408)956-8819 | 14400 | Opus      | Earl Faneuf     | San Jose      |
| Sasquach          | (510)462-9502 | 14400 | Maximus/2 | Joe Pyle        | Pleasanton    |
| SCPC              | (707)447-3526 | 14400 | Maximus/2 | Bob Aliman      | Vacaville     |
| SeaNet            | (415)591-3535 | 2400  | RemoteAcc | Will Crawford   | San Carlos    |
| Second Generation | (408)980-8830 | 9600  | Renegade  | Kthulu          | San Jose      |
| Shareware Express | (408)223-1571 | 2400  | PCBoard   | Andrew Nguyen   | San Jose      |
| Shrine            | (408)747-0778 | 14400 | Wildcat   | Tom Joseph      | Sunnyvale     |





# San Francisco Bay Area Bulletin Boards

| Title              | Phone         | BPS   | Software   | Sysop           | City          |
|--------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| ShrinkTank         | (408)257-8131 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Rob Bischoff    | San Jose      |
| Sil. V. Christian  | (408)246-7002 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| Silicon Connection | (408)492-9700 | 2400  | Matchmaker | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| Skull              | (415)637-9077 | 14400 | PCBoard    | The Dozer       | San Carlos    |
| Slaygor's Domain   | (707)425-4930 | 2400  | AllAmer    | Slaygor         | Fairfield     |
| Smart              | (415)369-8706 | 2400  | Hermes     | Sysop           | Redwood City  |
| SMUG               | (415)574-7684 | 2400  | OmegaSyst  | Robert Hunter   | San Mateo     |
| So Be It           | (510)680-1980 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Wendy Pike      | Concord       |
| SolanoST           | (707)446-4158 | 14400 | ExpressST  | Fred Bruch      | Vacaville     |
| SOLIS              | (408)741-8012 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Ron Levine      | Saratoga      |
| Solitude           | (415)969-8467 | 14400 | Waffle     | Macron Factor   | Mountain View |
| Sound Mind         | (415)965-1525 | 14400 | Hermes     | John            | Mountain View |
| South Bay          | (408)254-9310 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Jerry           | San Jose      |
| SpaceDock          | (408)723-1327 | 2400  | Renegade   | Enterprise      | San Jose      |
| Spectrox           | (408)255-1005 | 9600  | Waffle     | Aaron Anderer   | San Jose      |
| ST Synchronicity   | (510)235-1235 | 9600  | ExpressST  | Sysop/Gil       | San Jose      |
| STARCOMM           | (707)421-8353 | 14400 | Tri-BBS    | John Zimmerman  | Richmond      |
| StarFleet          | (510)261-9652 | 14400 | Telegard   | Mad Jack        | Fairfield     |
| Starlight          | (707)645-0412 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Michael Morgan  | East Bay Area |
| Steel Wheels       | (408)229-0340 | 14400 | Spitfire   | Dean Palmquist  | Vallejo       |
| STTTNG&Beyond      | (408)732-1654 | 1200  | Renegade   | DIRIRaT         | San Jose      |
| Studio 3           | (408)249-5810 | 14400 | Hermes     | Talarian        | Sunnyvale     |
| Sub-Station        | (707)452-9049 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Ken Kramer      | San Jose      |
| Sunnyvale Library  | (408)245-7827 | 2400  | Inlex      | Reference Desk  | Vacaville     |
| Support            | (408)259-0297 | 9600  | PowerBBS   | Frank Arnold    | Sunnyvale     |
| SynerChat          | (408)929-1980 | 2400  | Gtalk      | Joe Boo         | San Jose      |
| Tangent            | (415)703-0150 | 14400 | Oracomm    | Ken Lowe        | San Francisco |
| Tavern BBS         | (510)790-1375 | 2400  | Michton    | BarbarianPrince | Fremont       |
| TBIT               | (408)257-6225 | 1200  | CitaSim    | ROBERT          | San Jose      |
| Tech               | (408)279-7199 | 14400 | Waffle     | Sysop           | San Jose      |
| TechQuest          | (408)295-3521 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Tom Boyles      | San Jose      |
| TeleGraphics       | (408)737-1703 | 9600  | 1st Class  | Tamara Pressman | Sunnyvale     |
| TeleText           | (408)735-1803 | 9600  | Wildcat    | Sysop           | Sunnyvale     |
| Temp. Insomniac    | (408)866-0640 | 14400 | Spitfire   | Gery Magalong   | Campbell      |
| Terminal One       | (510)432-2461 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Pete Nelson     | Pittsburg     |
| The Chair Tool     | (415)968-2649 | 14400 | Spitfire   | Mike Stewart    | Mountain View |
| Third Dimension    | (408)267-8621 | 14400 | Spitfire   | Jake Jones      | San Jose      |
| Thrazle            | (510)293-9459 | 14400 | Telegard   | Thrazle         | Hayward       |
| Thunder Mountain   | (408)266-4553 | 2400  | OracommPls | SYSGFLYER       | San Jose      |
| Tiger Team         | (510)268-0102 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Gray Ray        | East Bay Area |
| Time Bender-Long   | (408)257-9820 | 14400 | WWIV       | T. Jamison      | San Jose      |
| Time&Eternity      | (510)866-5467 | 9600  | COMNET     | Kevin Herron    | Hayward       |
| TIPS               | (408)922-0988 | 14400 | PCBoard    | Wm. Duemler     | San Jose      |
| TMI BBS            | (707)935-1713 | 2400  | Wildcat    | Paul T.         | Sonoma        |
| Toad Hall BBS      | (415)595-2427 | 14400 | PCBoard    | Gordon Anderson | San Carlos    |
| Trembler           | (408)978-6292 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Joe Aiello      | San Jose      |
| Tripwire           | (510)490-1099 | 14400 | Renegade   | The Raven       | Fremont       |
| U.F.O.             | (408)847-7910 | 2400  | Wildcat    | Phil Intravia   | Gilroy        |
| Ultimate Force     | (510)494-0330 | 2400  | Color64    | Megga Force     | Fremont       |
| Uncle D's          | (415)384-3001 | 14400 | UltraBBS   | Dave Spensley   | Redwood City  |
| Underground        | (408)985-6961 | 2400  | Renegade   | Hellsysop       | San Jose      |
| Unsinkable Titanic | (510)521-9710 | 14400 | WWIV       | Captain EJ      | East Bay Area |
| Vallejo Tavern     | (707)553-9526 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Sysop           | Vallejo       |
| Victory Lane       | (408)578-2868 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Scott Wilhelmi  | San Jose      |
| Viper1             | (510)535-0231 | 9600  | PCBoard    | Sysop           | East Bay Area |
| Virtual            | (408)246-5434 | 2400  | VBBS       | Jim Busby       | San Jose      |
| VisionSoft         | (408)626-6580 | 14400 | CNetAMIGA  | Stefan Hudson   | Carmel        |
| Walden Puddle      | (510)795-7660 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Kevin Brokaw    | Fremont       |
| Wall               | (510)770-0630 | 9600  | RBBS       | Charlie Floyd   | Pittsburg     |
| Weasel Den II      | (510)432-0204 | 2400  | WWIV       | Weasel          | San Jose      |
| Weekend Warrior    | (408)244-6711 | 14400 | Wildcat    | David Clements  | San Jose      |
| West Coast Swing   | (408)956-5600 | 14400 | TBBS       | Ron Johnson     | San Jose      |
| WhitCom            | (510)794-0170 | 14400 | PCBoard    | Scott Whitney   | Fremont       |
| Who Knows          | (408)262-1364 | 14400 | Spitfire   | Johnny Bowen    | San Jose      |
| Wind Tunnel        | (707)421-0380 | 14400 | Wildcat    | John Wright     | Fairfield     |
| Window World       | (415)931-0649 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Bob Cram        | San Francisco |
| Windows OnLine     | (510)736-8343 | 14400 | PCBoard    | Frank Mahaney   | Danville      |
| Wings              | (916)987-1076 | 2400  | Color64    | Beowulf         | Folsom        |
| Wishing Well       | (510)745-7901 | 14400 | SearchLit  | MaryLou White   | Fremont       |
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| Wormhole           | (707)964-6968 | 1200  | DTJBBS     | Case Anonymous  | Fort Bragg    |
| Wrencher's         | (510)357-0927 | 14400 | Wildcat    | Walter Boland   | East Bay Area |
| WWWA               | (408)266-4425 | 14400 | Citadel66  | Tetsuo Shima    | Carmel        |
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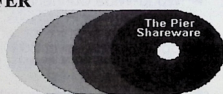
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# BOARDWATCH LIST OF BBS LIST KEEPERS

*This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.*

| BBS LIST TOPIC                 | LIST AUTHOR/EDITOR         | CONTACT BBS          | TELEPHONE    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Republic of South Africa       | Henk Wolsink               | Catalyst BBS         | 041 34-1122  |
| BBS With Handicapped Focus     | Bill McGarry               | Handicap News BBS    | 203 337-1607 |
| Connecticut AC 203             | Kevin Brook                | Creative Edge BBS    | 203 743-4044 |
| Seattle AC 206/West Washington | Bob Dinse/Nanook           | Eskimo North         | 206 367-3837 |
| Tacoma Washington AC 206       | Richard Langsford          | AmoCat BBS           | 206 566-1155 |
| Autocad Related BBS            | Jason Osgood               | SAUG BBS             | 206 644-7115 |
| Kitsap County Washington       | Michael Schuyler           | Quicksilver BBS      | 206 780-2011 |
| Astronomy/Space BBS            | John Pickens               | Starbase III BBS     | 209 432-2487 |
| Central California AC 209      | Jack Porter/Madera UG      | Zen Den Systems      | 209 675-8436 |
| Graphical User Interface BBS   | David Shapiro              | The Gooyo GUI BBS    | 212 876-5885 |
| 96 List - 9600+bps BBS         | Ken Sukimoto               | Downtown BBS         | 213 484-0260 |
| Open Access UNIX Site List     | Phil Eschallier            | LGNP1 login:BBS      | 215 348-9727 |
| Pennsylvania AC 215/609/302    | Ron Brandt                 | DSC/VOICENET         | 215 443-9434 |
| Cleveland Area 216             | Jim Barry                  | Flip Flop            | 216 951-9134 |
| Champaign-Urbana IL AC 217     | Eddie Thomson              | The Dungeon BBS      | 217 355-1214 |
| Conservation/Nature BBS List   | D. Wendling/JS Christianso | Coin of the Realm    | 301 585-6697 |
| Ham/Amateur Radio BBS          | Stan Staten                | 3WINks BBS           | 301 590-9629 |
| Handicapped Issues BBS         | Richard Barth              | HEX BBS              | 301 593-7357 |
| Desktop Publishing BBS         | Frank Atlee                | Infinite Perspective | 301 924-0398 |
| Delaware AC 302                | Vince Boehm/Dave Osburn    | Talk Radio BBS       | 302 429-7667 |
| Medical Issues BBS             | Edward Del Grosso          | Black Bag            | 302 994-3772 |
| Cave Exploration BBSs          | Douglas L. Moore II        | The CatEye BBS       | 304 592-3390 |
| South Florida Area 305/407     | Eric Thav                  | Silicon Beach BBS    | 305 474-6512 |
| Southern California            | Mike Hefferman             | SOCAL Corner         | 310 422-7942 |
| California AC 310              | Jim Walton                 | Illusions BBS        | 310 804-3324 |
| Detroit Area 313               | Horst Mann                 | Tony's Corner        | 313 754-1131 |
| St. Louis AC 314               | Beth Brooks                | Fire Escape's Dir    | 314 741-9505 |
| ASP BBS Member List            | Bob Ostrander              | PBS-BBS              | 317 856-2087 |
| Engineering Related BBS        | Arthur Petrzalka           | Computer Plumber     | 319 337-6723 |
| Rhode Island Area 401          | Mike Labbe                 | Eagle's Nest         | 401 732-5292 |
| Atlanta Area 404               | Online Atlanta Society     | OASIS                | 404 627-2662 |
| Atlanta Area 404               | Rodney Aloia               | INDEX System         | 404 924-8472 |
| Orlando Florida AC 407         | Matt Drury                 | London BBS           | 407 895-1335 |
| San Francisco Bay Area         | Mark Shapiro               | BABBA BBS            | 408 946-5642 |
| Baltimore Area 410             | Brad Blase                 | Silver Streak BBS    | 410 683-1583 |
| Pittsburgh AC 412              | Chas Stokes                | Zuul's Catacombs     | 412 264-9787 |
| National BBS List              | DP McIntire/Beth Spotts    | Ameriboard           | 412 349-6862 |
| Milwaukee Area 414             | Jay Jadofsky               | Priplanus            | 414 442-0170 |
| Arkansas Area 501              | Bob Underdown              | The Gaslight BBS     | 501 444-8420 |
| Kentucky AC 502                | Dan Elder                  | National Data Exchg  | 502 942-2848 |
| Louisville KY AC 502           |                            | Old Soldier's Home   | 502 942-2848 |
| Portland Oregon BBS            | Lisa Gronke                | DawGone Disgusted    | 503 297-9145 |



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| New Orleans BBS List           | Jeff Jones             | Southern Star BBS    | 504 885-5928  |
| Worcester MA AC 508            | Jim Metzler            | Miwok Village BBS    | 508 754-6512  |
| Austin Area BBS List AC 512    | Gordon L. Harlan       | --ACE*BBS--          | 512 258-9553  |
| Selected BBS                   | Joseph Caplinger & Son | J&J's BBS            | 513 236-1229  |
| List of Gay/Lesbian BBS        | Eric Blair             | S-TEK BBS            | 514 597-2409  |
| AC 516 Free Shareware BBS      | Harold Stein           | Long Island Exchange | 516 271-6523  |
| Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan   | Rick Rosinski/SAMM     | Wolverine BBS        | 517 695-9952  |
| Business/Professional BBS      | Dennis Hauser          | Delight The Customer | 517 797-3740  |
| Phoenix AC 602                 | John Mendivil          | Majestic Royalty BBS | 602 278-1651  |
| Phoenix AC 602                 | Sue Widemark           | Cheese Whiz BBS      | 602 279-0793  |
| Wisconsin 608                  |                        | JW-PC Dataflex.HST   | 608 837-1923  |
| New Jersey AC 609              | Dave Schubert          | The Casino PCBoard   | 609 561-3377  |
| New Jersey Area 201/609/908    | Wayne R. Morton        | Praedo BBS           | 609 953-0769  |
| Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612   | Barry Watson           | Abiogenetic BBS      | 612 774-8454  |
| Apple II BBS                   | Mike Shecket           | Way Out              | 614 436-4846  |
| San Diego, CA AC 619           | Ron Dipold             | ComputerEdge         | 619 573-1675  |
| San Diego AC 619               | Joe Nicholson          | General Alarm        | 619 669-0385  |
| Apple II BBS with Internet con | Morgan Davis           | pro-sol              | 619 670-5379  |
| Virginia AC 703/804            | Scott Dickinson        | TOSOR BBS            | 703 366-4620  |
| OS/2 BBS Systems               | Pete Norloff           | OS2/Shareware BBS    | 703 385-4325  |
| Washington DC BBS List         | Mike Focke             | Interconnect         | 703 425-2505  |
| Genealogy Related BBS          | Richard A. Pence       | NGS-CIG              | 703 528-2612  |
| Ontario Area 705               | Alex Draper            | Cottage Country BBS  | 705 835-6192  |
| Black Run/Oriented BBS         | Arthur "Rambo" McGee   | BDPA BAC BBS         | 707 552-3314  |
| Chicago                        | Paul Chartraw          | The Hideaway BBS     | 708 748-1911  |
| Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs    | Rex Chadwell           | ChicAgo Hangar       | 708 980-1613  |
| Houston Area 713               | David E. Wachenschwanz | Atomic Cafe BBS      | 713 530-8875  |
| Rochester NY AC 716            | Tracy Logan            | Logan's Run          | 716 256-2659  |
| National 800 Number BBS List   | Michael Long           | Hayes Online         | 800 874-2937  |
| CompuCom Modem BBS List        | Thomas Weathers        | Referral Market BBS  | 803 297-4395  |
| Macintosh BBS                  | Bill Taylor            | Fort Mill Tabby      | 803 548-0900  |
| Ecology/Conservation BBS       | Bob Chapman            | EarthArt BBS         | 803 552-4389  |
| Firearms Related bbs           | Jerry Brunet           | Neon Nights          | 804 588-4978  |
| Wildcat! BBS                   | Jim Harrer             | Wildcat! HQ          | 805 395-0650  |
| Central California Area 805    | Larry Honore           | His Board            | 805 652-1478  |
| Technical Support BBS List     | Gary Barr              | Digicom BBS          | 812 479-1310  |
| Pinellas/Tampa Florida AC 813  | Emery Mandel           | Mercury Opus         | 813 321-0734  |
| Kansas City Area 816/913       | Roy Timberman          | Sound Advice         | 816 436-4516  |
| Dallas/Ft Worth Area 214/817   | Mark Robbins           | Second Sanctum       | 817 784-1178  |
| Occult BBS                     | Phil Hansford          | Mysteria             | 818 353-8891  |
| Commodore 64/128/Amiga BBS     | John Rigali            | Night Gallery        | 818 448-8529  |
| National Adult BBS List        | Clayton Manson         | Titan BBS 1:3612/140 | 904 476-1270  |
| Alaska AC 907                  | Patti Johnson          | Alaska Pirate Soc.   | 907 248-9364  |
| Darwin National USBBS List     | Bob Breedlove          | Bob's BBS            | 916 929-7511  |
| OS/2 Related BBS               | Dave Fisher            | LiveNet 1:170/110    | 918 481-5715  |
| Tulsa Oklahoma Area BBS List   | Linda Hargraves        | ACCESS AMERICA       | 918 747-2542  |
| Raleigh NC Area Code 919       | Mike Stroud            | Micro Message Svc.   | 919 779-6674  |
| U.S.S.R. BBS List              | Serge Terekhov         | Court Crimson King   | 7-3832-356722 |

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# BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

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Clark Development Company, Inc., developer of **PCBOARD BBS Software**, has made a standing offer to pay 50% of the cost of classified advertisements in *Boardwatch Magazine* placed by any BBS that notes their use of **PCBOARD 14.5a** or later software.

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**ProStar Plus** 206 941-0317 Auburn Washington since 01/88. Sysop: Robert Michnick. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 91 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 10000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$5.00 Hourly fee. Join the Best in the West, 200,000 files, MajorNet Central here nightly national chats via InterLink, 75 games, national access from 500 cities, ProStar After Dark for the over 18 crowd, free Internet access, Seattle DateLine, real-time stocks and MORE!!

**TRI-COM Data Network** 210 725-5398 Laredo Texas since 01/93. Sysop: Rod Wilkens. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. MajorNet MailLink address @TRI. 6 CD's online including adult, national Chat Teleconference nightly, Multi-Player games, online Computer Store & classified ads, BBS database. Downloads available on first call. Membership upgrades by our 900 number.

**Access New York** 212 580-6473 New York New York since 05/93. Sysop: Mark Green. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 600 MB storage. TelePath at 14400 bps. No fee. AccessNY gives you your own INTERNET mailbox and access to all Newsgroups. AccessNY also includes Happenings In Town: GameSpace with Crossroads, War Games, Trade Wars ASAP & more: Reviews & Top Tens; BookSpace with Shakespeare; Classifieds; S-Ware; ...

**Real Exposure** 212 691-2679 New York City since 12/92. Sysop: Joey Harvick. Using WildCat 3.6 with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2000 MB storage. Practical Peripherals at 14400 bps. \$50 Half Year fee. EXPOSE YOURSELF to a cutting edge message base of new age personalities, politics, art, entertainment, sports & science. Lively debate, engaging topics. Matchmaker, Classifieds, PCShop & Game Doors. InterNet, Fido, Adult, Kink, PrideNet. Free trial week.

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### MAJORBBS/MAJORNET BBS OPERATORS

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**The Liberty BBS** 213 732-2300 Los Angeles California since 07/92. Sysop: John Galt. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 58 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5420 MB storage. US Robotics at 2400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Local phone numbers listed online for 8 area codes & PC-Pursuable at D/CASAN/24 ATDT 9967777. Nationwide ChatLink, WorldLink, MailLink & MajorNet. Internet E-Mail & Usenet newsgroups for subscribers. Free time on every call. Much much more!

**BBS BBS** 213 962-2902 Los Angeles California since 03/92. Sysop: Bill Weinman. Using WildCat 3.55 with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2500 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$52 Annual fee. Los Angeles' fastest growing BBS. Home of CalLink sm "the voice of the people", ILink node, western distribution site for Robocomm & RoboMail. New files daily, free week's total access upon verification.

**DSC BBS** 215 443-7390 Ivyland Pennsylvania since 11/88. Sysop: Ron Brandt. Using PCBoard 15 with 25 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 10000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$20 Quarterly fee. LIVE INTERACTIVE ACCESS. FULL Usenet feed with ftp & telnet! ILink, Rime, Smartnet, Fidonet, Annex, Throbnat, Afterdark, AdultLinks & Adultnet. 4,000 signs in all. Fresh adult GIFs daily, 10gig file library, 25Lines, MultiLine Chat.

**The Antenna Network 215 675-3851** Hattboro Pennsylvania since 03/90. Sysop: Steve Ferguson. Using WildCat 3.9 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 10800 MB storage. US Robotics at 16.8 bps. \$5 Monthly fee. Philadelphia Area's Largest BBS with over 10 CDs Online! Over 53,000 Files and 700 Message Conferences from FidoNet, WildNet, ThrobNet, AdultNet, E!Net, and RimeNet. The Best Game of Trade Wars in the 215 Area Code!

**The Round Table 215 678-0818** Reading Pennsylvania since 03/90. Sysop: Dan McCoy & Mike Brown. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 7 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 2500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$20-\$55 Annual fee. FREE Two Week Access for ALLI Engineering & AutoCad Specialty System. 50,000+ Files Technical, Windows, DOS util & More! 400+SIGs on 6 Networks. USAToday, Games, & News. Member USBN and ASP.

**A LEGAL GENIUS 215 695-9689** Malvern Pennsylvania since 10/01. Sysop: Marc Bragg. Using Maximus with 1 line on MS-DOS 80286 with 100 MB storage. BCC-A 14 at \$600 bps. No fee. Law-Related Files, Law & Political Echo Areas. Lawyers, Law-Students and Normal people welcome. FREE. Legal articles, court opinions; 3rd Circuit opinions; law-school outlines; Wills, Contracts, Leases, etc. FREE. Call today! 215-695-9689

**Newtown Express BBS 215 943-6806** Newtown Pennsylvania since 10/91. Sysop: Anthony Maglietta. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8400 MB storage. US Robotics at 16.8 bps. \$20 Quarterly fee. 1200-16.8K Baud. THE LARGEST selection of files in the area PA, NJ, DE ! THE LARGEST selection of original adult GIFS in the area! Dedicated 386 and 486 nodes for fast, reliable service. Preview the adult GIFS BEFORE downloading! Call for details.

**THE PEAK BBS 303 360-7680** Aurora Colorado since 02/92. Sysop: Jon Almon. Using Major BBS 6.03 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1000 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. \$10.00 Per 6 Month fee. The very best & latest shareware/freeware each week, from the National Services AOL, CIS and GENie. LARGE ADULT AREA! Online Multi-player games, FidoNet, Classifieds, Action Chat and much more. MS Flight Sim. Support Library. Call for Free Demo.

**COLORADO CONNECTION 303 423-9775** Arvada Colorado since 12/91. Sysop: Terry Rune. Using TBBS 2.2 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 800 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$60 Annual fee. 2 1/2 gigs shareware, 30+ games, Internet, FidoNet, Las Vegas Net, EchoNet, BirdNet, The Wild Side adult game, Home of The Bird Info Network! Fun!

**The File Bank, Inc. 303 534-4646** Denver Colorado since 01/93. Sysop: Brian Bartee. Using TBBS 2.2M[32] with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 15000 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$7.50 Monthly fee. ASP Approved BBS & one of the finest collections of IBM-Compatible Shareware. Many free download areas including extensive libraries of Astronomy Software & Data files, Message Areas, Online Games, Chat, VISA, MC, AMEX, Discover Welcome. Voice: 534-4538

**Pinecliff BBS 303 642-7463** Pinecliffe Colorado since 01/82. Sysop: Craig Baker. Using Ultra 2.03 with 14 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 9500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Largest BBS in RockyMtn Area. FREE \$20/yr gets 2hrs/day, \$100 Lifetime membership. 60,000 zips. CD-Roms online. Games. Home of CDBREG - allows immediate upgrades with credit card. Sysop also runs a computer store, Night Owl \$49. Come help us grow!

**Sound Doctrine Church's BBS 303 680-7209** Aurora Colorado since 01/87. Sysop: Tim Williams. Using TBBS 2.2 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 1200 MB storage. AT&T at 19200 bps. No fee. Totally free! (Lue 16:13) 1+gig of files. You can order free items while on-line. Also check out the suffering Christian alert area. Where non-believers can ask the questions their Christian friends wish they wouldn't. The bbs for serious Christianity.

**The Felish Network BBS 305 370-7007** South Florida since 12/92. Sysop: Orion Vesta. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 400 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. No fee. Owned and operated by world famous dominatrix, Goddess Dianna Vesta, TFN offers safe and sane exploration for couples and singles interested in alternatives. Chat and mail links with other systems of like interest forming a world wide network. GIFFS/DLS

**The Data Center BBS 305 436-5070** Pembroke Pines Florida since 08/92. Sysop: Dan Gulkis. Using WildCat 3.9 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 4000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Try one of the best board! Over 33,000 files including the latest DOS & Windows shareware, classic literature, & family GIFs. 100+ FidoNet & Intellect conferences. Online games, RIP graphics. Callback door saves toll, South Dade to Boca.

**Video Vortex BBS 310 395-3808** Santa Monica California since 08/93. Sysop: Mistress Nancy. Using Synchron 1b with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1075 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$40 Half Year fee. Big emphasis on RIP graphical! A commercial artist was hired. Vortex is a fetish video Co. Our niche is wrestling, leg & foot stuff, B&D/S&M, overall female dom. Online catalog descrp. w/sexy RIP icons. Original GIF's clipped from our vast video library!

**CompuErotica 312 902-3599** Chicago Illinois since 07/84. Sysop: Tiger. Using NiteLife with 11 lines on TT-030 with 200 MB storage. Supra at 2400 bps. \$45 Annual fee. If you like your chat hot, you'll love CompuErotic! Online Adult Lifestyle Conferences in chat, support files and bases, member-GIFs and more. Women receive FREE access after voice-verification. Large women's group. Come join the fun! Adults ONLY.

**The Serial Port 313 285-4115** Clinton Township Michigan since 03/82. Sysop: Stu Jackson. Using TBBS 2.2 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 6000 MB storage. Zyxel at 16.8 bps. \$45 Annual fee. Open by for a chat and a few files. THOUSANDS of Files with Adult sections available. Many on-line games. Call today for a FREE look around, or Download our entire file list for your proofing at a later time. VISA/MC/Discover Welcome for INSTANT Upgrade

**The Second Foundation 315 393-6504** Ogdensburg New York since 11/90. Sysop: Lee Cliff. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$5.50 Hourly fee. Multi-user & interactive. Online games & conferencing. RIP graphics support. 12 CD-ROM's always online. Many new features being added. The Cyberspace meeting place in Upstate New York.

**Meeting House BBS 401 848-2200** Portsmouth Rhode Island since 01/91. Sysop: John O'Donnell. Using Major BBS 5.31 with 24 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1100 MB storage. Supra at 9600 bps. \$1.50 Hourly fee. 4GB shareware PC & MAC Internet address-bbsnet.com Boston dialup 617 492 3924. Also connected to PSinet in 35 cities, and NE Tel in RI and Eastern MA. UUCP call and news. Online games. Nightly chatlink on PDN. Shopping & research services. Adult files.

**Late Nite 402 291-6164** Omaha Nebraska since 12/89. Sysop: John Patrick. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 8500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$3 Monthly fee. GIFs 33,000+ Hirez Adult - ShareWare, Mature Games and much more. Nebraska's #1 mature GIF source. Home of the Lxxxxnnn.GIF series!

**Nitelog BBS 408 655-1066** Monterey California since 02/89. Sysop: John Van Lear. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 22 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 6300 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$19 Quarterly fee. DOS, Win 3, OS2 & Image files: Email Conferences. Internet, Usenet, Rime, iLink. For v.32bis call 655-8294. For USR & MS call 655-8297. USA, MasterCard, Discover & AMEX accepted online. The FREE UNIX OS called LINUX the full set is now available on NLI

**IndustryNET 412 967-5363** Pittsburgh PA since 01/93. Sysop: Automation News Network. Using TBBS 2.2 with 64 lines on Network with 2000 MB storage. US Robotics at 38400 bps. No fee. The latest news and information on industrial automation, control, computers, PLCs and robotics. Featuring the latest products, trade shows on-line, engineering shareware, career opportunities and more. This is a great resource for engineers.

**The Springfield Public Access BBSI 413 536-4363** Springfield Massachusetts since 03/89. Sysop: Matthew de Jongh. Using TBBS 2.2 with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 7000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. No fee. 8 CD-ROMs Online, Over 80,000 Files, 200+ Message Areas FidoNet & ThrobNet, CWK Reader with Unlimited Access! Internet Email! the.spa.com Multi-Player Online Games Including The Wild Side! Adult Adventure Over 1,000 Active Users! Largest BBS in 413

**SHARPENIT BBS 413 786-4706** Agawam Massachusetts since 03/91. Sysop: Michael Scantlen. Using TBBS 17.4A with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1800 MB storage. Zoom VFX V42 V32 at 14400 bps. \$15.00 Annual fee. ASP APPROVED BBS serving SBN Bases, and the Community. Over 1.0 GB available with Low \$15/Year Membership. Basic Access No Charge. Featuring BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE, USATODAY, Games, EMS-FIRE, Weather-Alert. Official APOGEE Network #500. MC & Visa, Per chk.



**The Liberty BBS 415 325-6782** Palo Alto California since 07/82. Sysop: John Galt. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 58 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5420 MB storage. US Robotics at 2400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Local phone numbers listed online for 8 area codes including 404 & PC-Pursuable at D/CAScan/24 ATDT 9967777. Nationwide ChatLink, WorldLink, MailLink & MajorNet. Internet E-Mail & Usenet newsgroups for subscribers. Free time on every call! Much more!

**The Skull 415 637-9077** The Dozer, Using PCBoard 15 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5200 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$48 Annual fee. Highest Quality Adult GIFs Available Today. Free Trial Subscriptions. Local to ALL of the Bay Area. SF: 415 337-7681 Oakland: 510 658-6548 San Jose: 408 262-2655 Fremont: 510 797-0203 San Carlos: 415 637-9077 Palo Alto: 415 813-0460 ASIAN GIFs!

**THE CUTTING EDGE 415 751-0588** San Francisco California since 05/93. Sysop: Evan Margolin. Using Major BBS 6.11 with 08+ lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8-GiB MB storage. US Robotics at 16.8K bps. No fee. 12+ CD ROMS ONLINE OVER 7 GIGS OF FILES. 70000 or MORE. Nationally Networked with MAJORNET MAILINK and More. NATIONWIDE CHAT EVERY NIGHT! Multiplayer Games, TRIVIA Teleconference, Internet Access! Don't get left out. CALL TODAY!

**Baudefville BBS 416 283-0114** Toronto Ontario Canada since 03/92. Sysop: Ian Evans. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 2000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$35 Annual fee. 1200 Usenet areas, RIME, Intelec, Nanel, C2C, Racenet, RF-Net, ILINK, Medianeat, VPANet, Fidonet. 2 gigs of files. 2300+ confs. Internet mail. Fido 1:250/304 The Economidal Email Emporium. \$48 membership gets you \$185 in h/wsw coupon!

**The U.S.A. BBS 501 753-8575** Little Rock Arkansas since 02/93. Sysop: Jeff Johnson. Using TBBS 2.2 with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 10200 MB storage. AT&T at 19200 bps. No fee. Most popular computer products: DOS, Windows, & OS/2 files. Many games. One of the largest collections of Adult GIFs as well as scenic GIFs. Large adult area. Also many other sections including Religion, Kids, Business. Contests with v2b2b mods

**BUY-IT-WHOLESALE 503 479-4482** Grants Pass Oregon since 07/15. Sysop: Neil Agosta. Using WildCat 3.90S with 1 line on MS-DOS 80386 with 480 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. No fee. Dedicated to seeing distributors' wholesale prices for computer products and to buying via BBS for 1% or less over wholesale. For PC, Mac, Unix, Atari, workstations and etc. Sysop is a computer dealer, making sales with minimum overhead. Check it out.

**The GIF Shop Inc 510 889-4686** Concord, California since 09/91. Sysop: Wark Gan. Using WildCat 3.60 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 9000 MB storage. AT&T Dataport at 36400 bps. \$18.00 Quarterly fee. The World's BeST Quality Scans Originate Right Here! Northern Cal's Largest and Most Active BBS. New and Fresh Files daily. Recognized GIFs World Wide. FREE Internet, Throbnat, HotNet, BRRANet. Subscribe Online with your Visa or MasterCard.

**Club California BBS 510 724-5755** San Francisco California since 04/92. Sysop: Rand Al Thor. Using C-Net PRO 3 with 15 lines on Amiga with 1200 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. No fee. Conferencing, Files for Amiga, IBM, Macintosh, Atar, tons of mods, gigs, Online games, tons of Text files, come to the 24 hour party spot where people meet interesting people of the opposite sex, 1.4 line 510-724-7123 & 510-724-2232

**Substation BBS 516 364-4450** Woodbury New York since 04/86. Sysop: Paul Blaccard. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 1600 MB storage. US Robotics at 16800 bps. No fee. Comics & animation, Nutrition, Corvette Forums. Home of Amateurs in Action Magazine. Direct Contact Adult Scans Featuring premium adult fetish scans/ads and on-line articles. Different, provocative and free Access with validation.

**America's Suggestion Box ASB 516 471-8625** Ronkonkoma New York since 02/92. Sysop: Joe Jezczynski. Using TBBS 2.2 with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 3800 MB storage. Intel 14.4EX at 14400 bps. No fee. 24000+ files, ASP approved, Shareware Showcase, Boardwatch, USA Today, Internet E-mail, C/City Echoes! Would you like to see a computer product or service improved? Call and see why you and ASB can make a difference! Generous access time & download privs

**Hi-Tek's Place 516 757-0210** Long Island New York since 07/91. Sysop: Hi-Tek Pete. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 14000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$20 Quarterly fee. BBS for Graphics Scans and Shareware. Over 50,000 Quality GIF & Hi-Color Scans Online, also DOS, WINDOWS & ADULT files. Register and Credit Card Membership Online. On of the Largest and Fastest growing BBS in the Northeast. Come and Teck Us Out for FREE

**House Of Files BBS 516 938-6722** Hicksville New York since 08/85. Sysop: Jim Tor. Using TBBS 2.2 with 32 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 23400 MB storage. Supra at 19200 bps. \$30 Quarterly fee. Largest file system in New York. Over 150,000 files ALWAYS online. Over 10,000 music files, 10,000 public domain clip art files at tens of thousands of others. Call us and find out why hundreds of sysops subscribe to our system. Browse around for free!

**Wolverine 517 695-9952** Freehold, Michigan since 07/88. Sysop: Rick Rosinski. Using Searchlight 3.00 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 7500 MB storage. Intel at 14400 bps. \$35 Annual fee. Mid-Michigan's Largest BBS with over 70,000 files. Special support for Windows, DESQview, Music, Games, Amiga, Mac. Official Support BBS for Skyline, ASP Approved. ModernNews, Apogee, Epic MegaGames, MVP, Software Creations Distribution Site.

**Sound Power Systems 517 792-4680** Saginaw Michigan since 01/91. Sysop: Ronald Gage. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 2600 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$40.00 Annual fee. FidoNet/RIME/Intelec mail online. 4 hours a day access 9 meg a day limit. Large Adult file collection online. Friendly operator and atmosphere. Online doors including Tradewars. Color scanning available. Visa/MC registration Online no surcharge

**"Delight The Customer" BBS 517 797-3740** Saginaw Michigan since 12/91. Sysop: Dennis A. Hager. Using TBBS 2.2a with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 340 MB storage. Hayes at 9600 bps. \$57/ YR or FREE fee. For Customer Service, Training, Help Desk, Telemarketing and QA/QC professionals. Business/Professional BBS List! Call & list your bus/prof oriented BBS today! FREE MEMBERSHIPS FOR FILE UPLOAD!

**The Rock Garden 602 220-0001** Phoenix Arizona since 06/88. Sysop: Jeff Moriarty. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 20 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1,000 MB storage. Intel at 14400 bps. \$50 Hourly fee. One of the strangest chat and game BBSes around! Dispatch messages through MajorNet or missiles through Global Destruction! On-line pizza, things you shouldn't do, file and adult areas, trivia sessions, and a lot of rocks! Not for the easily confused!

**Cornville BBS 602 634-0144** Cornville Arizona since 01/93. Sysop: Doug Morgan. Using MajorBBS 6.01 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 105 MB storage. Hayes at 2400 bps. No fee. Real Estate listing, also listing of Real Estate brokers, mortgage brokers, and appraisers, want ads, match maker, teleconference, late night talk.

**Somewhere Out 602 838-9707** Phoenix Arizona since 02/93. Sysop: Jeff Wolkove. Using Coconut 3.3n with 6 lines on UNIX with 1300 MB storage. ZYXEL at 14400 bps. \$18.50 Quarterly fee. Somewhere Out There is a place where people find each other! This unique Coconut-based graphical BBS features a unique online environment with personal ads, an alternate lifestyles area, and support groups. Many other unique features, large file library.

**Windows Download Center 607 722-5512** Vestal New York since 04/91. Sysop: Howard Ballis. Using Aunit 5.12 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 640 MB storage. ZYXEL at 16800 bps. \$25 Annual fee. 2500 windows shareware programs, latest versions, with 200 new or upgraded programs monthly, based on an extensive national search.

**The Manor House BBS 609 267-4124** Mt. Holly New Jersey since 05/93. Sysop: Alan Bowen. Using Major BBS 6.11 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 770 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$30 a Hourly fee. Specializing in online entertainment and role playing games. Come join the fun and help us grow! Instant access available on your first call.

**The Friendship Express 612 556-5726** Minneapolis Minnesota since 12/88. Sysop: Glen Williamson. Using Major BBS 6.03 with 32 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 450 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$1/hr Hourly fee. Best kept secret in Northern Part of MajorNet, with 1000's of members in ALL 50 states and Canada! If you're interested in swinging, gay, lesbian, bi, straight, leather, Xdressing, B&D/S/M, etc. then our board is for YOU. FREE swinger's magazine!

**ASA CompuHelp BBS 614 476-4058** Columbus Ohio since 05/92. Sysop: Jeff Binkley and Rick Korecki. Using PCBoard 15 beta with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 3600 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$30/60 Annual fee. Central Ohio's fastest growing BBS! FidoNet, StormNet, FULL Usenet Feed, Internet E-Mail, CDCRM drives and more! Featuring FULL Usenet feeds for low low prices. Known for our newsletter and great technical support Check-us-out!

**The 3rd Eye Electronic Erotic Magazine 615 272-6155** Nashville Tennessee since 05/86. Sysop: Michael Vetter. Using TBBS 2.2 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2000 MB storage. Hayes at 9600 bps. \$30 Annual fee. A friendly gathering place for couples and singles with an interest in the swinging lifestyle. Personal ads all lifestyles, digitized photos of members, online chat, adult downloads, club information, Unique echos, lifestyle support, multiuser games.

**Sounds Of Silence 615 449-5969** Nashville Tennessee since 07/92. Sysop: Jim Walton. Using Major BBS 6.03 with 32 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 15000 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. \$15 Monthly fee. Great "Live" Chat and Entertainment System. Games, 71 Gigs of files, forums, classifieds. 24 hour access, dating surveys, E-Mail, WATTS lines, credit card and 900 billing. 32 high speed lines. Online fortune telling. An interesting system.

**12 BG, The Rose and Crown BBS 615 892-0097** Chattanooga Tennessee since 06/85. Sysop: David Ellison. Using PCBoard 15 with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1200 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$33.00 Annual fee. Free 30 minutes per day with no ratios, no limits, 18 CDROMS on line, RIME Echomail. System is very fast. Over 130,000 files, over 12 Gigabytes. Download with first call.

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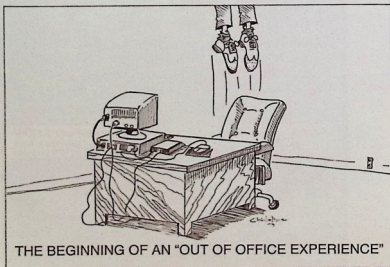
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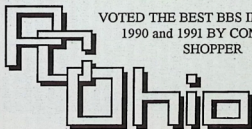
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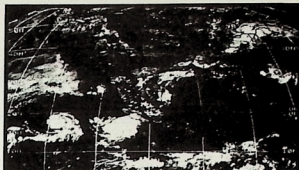


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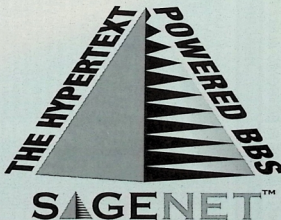
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NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ON-LINE INFORMATION SERVICES - OCTOBER 1993

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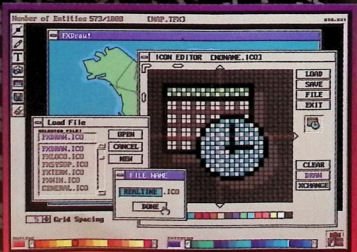
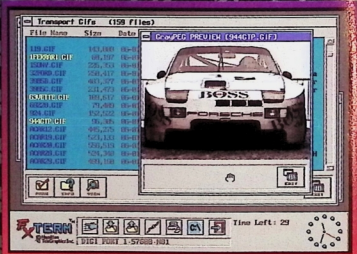
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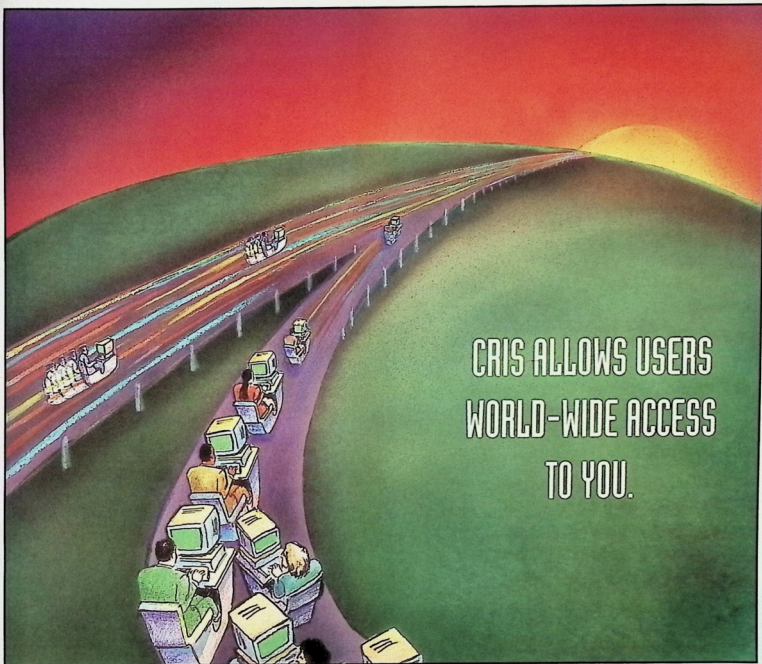
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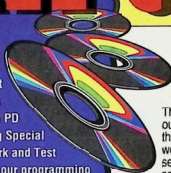
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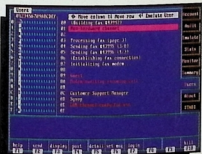
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